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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

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### G4S Donation

G4S Security Services CNMI donates about 250 canned food items to Karidat.

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**CDA board OKs Sandy Beach Homes QC application. PAGE 2**  
**Central govt, two autonomous agencies owe CUC \$3.8M. PAGE 6**

# Worker rules out in March 2011

## NEW DHS TIMETABLE

- \$320 fee for each of estimated 22,000 transitional workers
- E-2 CNMI investor rule posted on Federal Register

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
[haidee\\_eugenio@saipantribune.com](mailto:haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security intends to issue in March 2011 the long-awaited CNMI-only transitional worker rule that is expected to cover some 22,000 foreign workers in the Commonwealth.

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## The Grinch that stole Dec. 24, 31 holidays Payroll today for non-critical employees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Thousands of government employees have to spend the Friday before Christmas at work. Luckily, the Friday before New Year falls on a so-called austerity Friday so their offices will be closed.

At the same time, non-critical gov-

ernment employees will be able to receive their payroll today.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial clarified yesterday that the fiscal year 2011 budget law made Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 working days for the government.

Public Law 17-21 repealed 1 CMC 313 in fiscal year 2011, which began on Oct. 1.

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## HOLIDAY CLEANUP

In preparation for the holiday tourism season, tourism partners conducted a cleanup of Garapan yesterday, Dec. 21, netting 550 lbs of trash. Participants included representatives of Japan-Saipan Travel Association, Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association, the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Paseo de Marianas Promoters and private citizens. The Division of Parks and Recreation also assisted with trash disposal.

MVA



## WITHOUT INTERVENTION

## Mariana crow to become extinct in 75 years

### ON THE NET

UW's Rota Avian Behavioral Ecology Program  
: <http://depts.washington.edu/rabep/index.html>

Researchers from the University of Washington say the Mariana crow, a forest crow living on Rota Island in the western Pacific Ocean, will go extinct in 75 years.

The extinction could happen almost twice as soon as previously believed.

The crow's extinction can be prevented with a bird management program that focuses on helping fledgling birds reach their

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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
The Mariana crow (*Corvus kubaryi*) is a forest crow living on Rota Island in the western Pacific Ocean.

## Fitial: Coral Ocean Point lease won't be extended

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has said that Coral Ocean Point's proposed 15-year extension of its land lease expiring in 2011 will not be ex-

tended, mainly because the investor "has not lived up to its commitment."

Fitial was referring to \$4 million in "public contributions" that the Japanese owner of Coral Ocean Point—Suwaso

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## Local

## CDA board OKs Sandy Beach Homes QC application

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

The board of directors of Commonwealth Development Authority unanimously voted Friday to recommend to the governor the approval of the application for a qualifying certificate of Sandy Beach Homes LLC.

Executive director Manuel A. Sablan confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that the board made its decision on the qualifying certificate application during the special meeting held on Dec. 17.

A qualifying certificate is a contract valid for a given time period, executed by the

governor upon recommendation of the CDA board, between the local government and the beneficiary.

Through the qualifying certificate, a beneficiary is entitled to tax rebates or tax abatements or both in return for development or expansion of a qualifying business venture. Qualified investments may receive up to 100 percent rebate and/or abatement of CNMI taxes for up to 25 years.

Sablan said Sandy Beach Homes LLC, a new business entity established in June through the collaboration of Triple J Saipan Inc. and Ironwood Housing Partners Saipan



Sablan

housing project.

Sandy Beach Homes Affordable Housing Project aims to develop affordable housing units on Laly 4 Beach in Chalan Kanoa in proximity to schools, jobs, shops, restaurants, and churches.

The \$28.2-million project involves the construction of

LLC, applied for a qualifying certificate for the construction phase of its affordable

two apartment buildings separated by a view corridor. It will consist of 60 three-bedroom, two-bathroom units measuring 1,400 sq. ft. each on the six-floor buildings with above ground level parking. Project plan will also feature energy-efficient design and materials, including a solar water heater.

Sandy Beach Homes LLC representatives, government officials, and community members officially broke ground at the project site on Monday.

At the Dec. 7 public hearing, Sandy Beach Homes' application received overwhelming support from community members.

"We're preparing the documents to submit to the governor hopefully before the end of the week. We're trying to meet the Christmas deadline," Sablan said in an interview yesterday.

He said it will be up to the governor to approve or reject the application once he receives the documents.

According to Sablan, the qualifying certificate application of Sandy Beach Homes involves abatement on the infrastructure tax and the excise tax for construction-related materials to be purchased for the project.

Sablan said the decision to recommend the approval of the application was mainly in consideration of the economic benefits of the affordable housing project.

"Not only is it economically viable but it also supports the social objective to provide affordable and really modern housing facility for low income families here," he explained.

Should Gov. Benigno R. Fitial approve the application, Sablan said it will be the first qualifying certificate for a housing project.

Sablan said the housing project is a major investment that will infuse substantial federal and private funds in the local government's economy.

"This will definitely have a ripple effect in the economy. We're hoping that others would follow," said the executive director.

But Sablan noted that CDA does not have any other pending qualifying certificate applications. Prior to Sandy Beach Homes, the last application received by the agency was for

the \$3.2 million call center of PTI Services Inc. in 2009.

### 'Positive message'

In an interview, Sandy Beach Homes representative Michael S. Sablan said they are very happy with the favorable recommendation of the board on their application.

"This sends a positive message to all interested investors and developers in the CNMI. We hope that the governor will approve our application. Granting tax relief at this economic situation is a plus for every investor," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

If the application gets approved, Sablan said the tax break will ease additional construction costs that they have incurred.

These extra costs include the additional cost of labor since the project contractor will have to bring in supervisory level workers from off-island since Saipan lacks qualified manpower for vertical construction projects.

Sablan said they will also incur additional labor costs because the contractor will implement two-shift, seven days a week of construction work to meet the December 2011 deadline for the fast-tracked project.

"We're determined and committed to meeting our deadline," he said.

Sablan also disclosed that there are still two ongoing land lease negotiations for nearby properties on the project site.

"We remain hopeful on these negotiations. The people in the area and the whole community have been very supportive of our project," he added.

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# CNMI paid \$15M to Medicaid program

## »DPH expects recipients to double to 30K by 2014

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI government paid a total of \$15 million for its Medicaid program last fiscal year and expects its current clients to double in 2014 when provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act take effect.

This was what Department of Public Health Medicaid administrator Helen C. Sablan told attendees during yesterday's annual meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management at Saipan World Resort.

Sablan revealed that for fiscal year 2010, Medicaid paid the Commonwealth Health Center \$2.1 million and local providers, \$10.8 million. These providers included pri-

vate clinics, pharmacists, and dental offices.

For Guam providers, Sablan said DPH paid \$262,556 last fiscal year while \$1.8 million went to providers in Honolulu and San Diego.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Medicaid program currently has 14,700 clients.

The Medicaid also received the following funding sources in fiscal year 2010:

- Regular medical assistance payment, \$5.1 million;

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's medical assistance payment, \$1.5 million;

- Regular enhanced allotment program, \$99,909;

- ARRA's enhanced allotment program, \$29,973; and

- State children health insur-

ance program, \$818,000.

For fiscal year 2011, funding sources for Medicaid include \$5.3 million in regular MAP; \$398,000 in ARRA MAP; \$100,000 in regular MAP; and \$818,000 from the state children health insurance program.

At present, funding for Medicaid requires a 50-50 sharing between the local government and the federal government.

Sablan disclosed that besides these regular funding, the Medicaid program will also receive an additional funding of \$3.035 million starting July 1, 2011.

For fiscal year 2012 through 2019, the CNMI will receive overall or additional funding of \$97.9 million.

### Federal matching to change

According to Sablan, matching requirements for Medicaid will change beginning July 1, 2011, with the federal government shouldering 55 percent, leaving the local government to take care of 45 percent. This reflects a 5-percent increase from the current 50-50 percent sharing requirement.

Besides this, the CNMI has the option to immediately increase its income guideline beginning July next year. By Jan. 1, 2014, the CNMI has to increase income

guideline up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act establishes a new eligibility group that all states and territories participating in Medicaid must cover individuals who do not fall under the current Medicaid categories by Jan. 1, 2014.

Since the CNMI is under the

1902(j) waiver, it is not mandated to establish a new eligibility group and this is optional.

In anticipation of the changes, Sablan said the local number of Medicaid recipients may double by 2014. When this happens, she said her office would need additional staff to support the increase demand. At present, they only have four staff.

## Judge OKs more time in Fernandez suit vs NMC

The federal court has delayed the proceedings in former Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez's lawsuit against NMC and its then regents as the parties in the case have agreed to allow an expert to complete a report.

Michael Dotts and Brien Sers Nicholas, counsel for Fernandez and the defendants, said the defendants have an expert who is still completing a report and who is traveling.

The extension of deadline will enable the defendants' expert to present that report, according to Dotts and Nicholas.

In approving the agreement, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood ordered that the defendants' expert disclosures be extended from Dec. 15, 2010, to Dec. 27, 2010.

Tydingco-Gatewood said Fernandez's rebuttal expert disclosures shall be extended from Dec. 22, 2010, to Jan. 10, 2011.

"Expert discovery set to be

completed by Jan. 3, 2011, shall be completed by Jan. 31, 2011," the judge said.

The parties did not indicate the identity of the expert and the nature of the report.

Fernandez sued NMC and its then regents Janet H. King, Maria Castro "Paz" Younis, Andrew L. Orsini, and Frank Rauliman for allegedly depriving her of her good name and property, conspiracy, defamation, and conspiracy to defame her. Except for King, all are sitting NMC regents.

Fernandez sued NMC for wrongful termination and breach of contract.

In its countersuit, NMC sued Fernandez for breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty. The school alleged that the former college president failed to follow proper procedures in changing certain student grades, in contravention of NMC's grade change policy. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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# Kilili briefs SHRM on health care reform law's impact on CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan briefed members and guests of the Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI Chapter yesterday on the benefits of the health care reform law, including increased Medicaid funding for the islands from \$5 million to \$9 million a year starting in July.

Sablan, who is currently on Saipan for Congress's Christmas break, said the \$9 million will keep going up until the CNMI gets \$21 million in 2019.

"That's three times more than we would have gotten over the decade without the new health care law. That should take a tremendous burden off of local taxpayers," Sablan told SHRM during its meeting at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday.

The delegate said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial can also decide to make a choice by 2013, whether to subsidize insurance premiums for families that are not "low income."

"These families don't qualify for Medicaid, but they can't afford to pay for regular health insurance. There's \$75 million in federal money for the CNMI, American Samoa, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands to subsidize

premiums for those 'middle-income' families," he said.

Sablan said the benefits of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or the health care reform law enacted in March 2010 have already begun. He said on Sept. 23, the Consumer Bill of Rights kicked in which include insurers can't cut coverage when you get sick, lifetime limits are lifted, annual limits are phased

out, children can't be barred for pre-existing conditions, and parents can cover their dependent children up to age 26.

He said on Jan. 1, seniors on Medicare will become eligible for a free annual checkup and seniors paying a lot for prescription drugs will get a 50-percent discount on brand-name medications.

Sablan said beginning on Jan. 1, insurance companies

will also be required to spend at least 80-percent of premiums on medical care.

He said just like the Medicare law signed in 1965 that is still being fine tuned, the health care reform law in 2010 will also be fine-tuned as circumstances change.

At the end of his presentation, Sablan answered questions from SHRM members about the health care reform law.

## CUC prefers consultant from EPA to ensure acceptable report

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Utu Malae wants the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to designate a consultant to work with CUC in preparing reports

to ensure the output would be acceptable to both parties.

"The best way is for U.S. EPA to simply assign one of their chosen consultants to CUC. They can work together with our own staff and with our consultant, if we need one, to arrive at a decent product

that is acceptable to both CUC and EPA after one iteration," said Malae.

But he admitted that the idea of one iteration is not acceptable to EPA.

"No. I brought this up but it was unacceptable to the EPA representative who met with one

of our engineers and myself," he said, adding that this is because the federal agency serves as regulating body for CUC.

Malae said both agencies could serve the people better if they can be more collaborative and less adversarial.

EPA earlier criticized CUC's

submission of documents required under the stipulated orders. Last Nov. 30, Malae said the interim financial plan was turned in on time to the federal agency.

Malae said the plan was prepared with the help of Deloitte & Touche and pointed

out that the interim is not a permanent plan and maybe adjusted depending on future circumstances.

For Malae, if a consultant from EPA will be assigned to work with the local agency this would save the CUC customers from incurring substantial cost in seeking experts' opinion.

## WORKER

From Page 1

"Each of the estimated 22,000 CNMI transitional workers will be required to pay a \$320 fee per year, for an annualized cost to the affected public of \$7 million," DHS said.

DHS is the lead agency imple-

menting U.S. Public Law 110-229—the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008—which placed CNMI immigration under federal control on Nov. 28, 2009. The five-year transition period ends on Dec. 31, 2014.

DHS' final action date on the CNMI transitional worker classification regulation is stated in its semiannual regulatory

agenda published in the Dec. 20 Federal Register.

The Dec. 20 Federal Register also publishes the E-2 CNMI investor rule. It can be accessed at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-31652.pdf>.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, when asked for comment yesterday, said he expects the worker regulations to be

published early next year, a few months after the investor rule's publication.

DHS, in its regulatory plan, said it is creating a new, temporary CNMI-only transitional worker (CW) classification, pursuant to the CNRA.

The transitional worker program is intended to provide for an orderly transition from the

CNMI permit system to the federal immigration system under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act.

A CW transitional worker is an alien worker who is ineligible for another classification under the INA and who performs services or labor for an employer in the CNMI.

The CNRA imposes a five-

year transition period before the INA requirements become fully applicable in the CNMI.

"The new CW classification will be in effect for the duration of that transition period, unless extended by the [U.S.] Secretary of Labor. The rule also establishes employment authorization incident to CW status," DHS said.

## MARIANA

From Page 1

first birthday, said James Ha, UW research associate professor in psychology.

Ha examined survival rates in 97 Mariana crows—*Corvus kubaryi*—that had been tracked between 1990 and 2010 by researchers. He found that 40 percent of fledgling crows made it to their first birthday.

The rapid decline of young birds is twice what researchers previously estimated.

"It's the first year of survival that's the most crucial," said Ha,

lead author of a report on the research. "If only 40 percent of fledglings survive their first year, then we predict the species will go extinct in 75 years."

Ha and his co-authors published the report in the current issue of *Bird Conservation International*.

The 75-year extinction estimate is according to a population model that factors in the estimated number of existing Mariana crows — 330 — with the 40 percent first-year survival rate, average number of fledglings per nest and fertility of female birds. Using this model, Ha found that 91 birds would exist in 20 years and that in 75 years the

species would be extinct.

Previously, biologists believed that the first-year survival rate of Mariana crows was higher, around 60 to 80 percent.

When Ha used those estimates in his population model, the outlook was not as grim for the birds. At 60 percent first-year survival rate, Mariana crows would dwindle to 218 birds in 20 years and become extinct in 133 years. And an 80 percent first-year survival rate projects that in 20 years there would be 453 birds, a growing population that would avoid extinction.

"According to the population model, if we can boost fledgling

survival from 40 percent to 70 percent, the Mariana crows will be fine," Ha said.

Of the about 35 crow species, Mariana crows are considered rare and classified as critically endangered. Weighing about a half of a pound, Mariana crows are 40 percent smaller than other crows, such as the Northwest crow.

Monogamously-mating, Mariana crows live exclusively on Rota Island, populated by about 1,200 people and located 56 miles northeast of Guam. Rota is a U.S. territory and is up for consideration as a U.S. national park.

Ha and Renee Ha, co-author

of the report and UW research scientist in psychology, fear that Rota faces the same avian demise as Guam, which has no forest birds.

Brown tree snakes introduced to the island after World War II wiped out native birds, such as the Guam flycatcher and the Rufous fantail.

The Has suspect that the uncontrolled increase of feral cats on Rota is leading to the decrease of Mariana crows, much like brown tree snakes led to the disappearance of forest birds on Guam.

The researchers say that a captive rearing program could save the Mariana crows. They

hope to set up a rearing facility where they could incubate eggs from the wild, raise the fledglings until their first birthday and then release the grown birds into nesting sites on the island.

The study was funded by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Co-author Alyssa Butler graduated from UW with a bachelor's degree in biology and is now a staff member at the Pali Institute, a science education camp in California. (*Newswise*)

Source: University of Washington

## THE

From Page 1

1 CMC 313 states in part: "If a holiday falls on a Saturday, it shall be celebrated on the preceding Friday. If a holiday falls on a Sunday, it shall be celebrated on the following Monday."

"Thus, the Fridays of December 24 and December 31 are no longer deemed as legal holidays for the government," Fitial said in yesterday's memo to all Executive Branch department and activity heads.

On Friday, Dec. 24, regular business day will be from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

On Dec. 31, government offices will be closed in observance of austerity Friday.

Government employees have been calling the Office of the Governor to know whether there's work on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, and the governor's memo is expected to answer their questions.

### Payroll today

Government employees who did not receive their payroll on time

on Friday last week can now make their Christmas shopping as they are expected to receive their paychecks today.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment yesterday, said payroll has been processed and is expected to be posted in employees' bank accounts today.

"As was previously stated, despite the austerity measures implemented pursuant to P.L. 17-21, the government continues to see declining trends in the influx of cash collections. Thus, the government continues to

experience difficulties in ensuring that payroll and other obligations to vendors are satisfied in a timely manner," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Most employees will receive their payroll via automatic transfer. Those who have yet to participate in the automatic transfer process will receive paper checks.

### Annual, sick leave

The governor also sent a memo on Dec. 10, clarifying annual and sick leave during the austerity period.

He said during the period of

austerity, all employees who have not been exempted from the austerity measures will be allowed to take up to 64 hours of annual leave or sick leave per pay period. However, provisions related to physician approval remain in effect.

All employees who have been exempted from the austerity measures will also be allowed to take up to 80 hours of annual leave or sick leave per pay period. However, in the case where an unpaid holiday is included in the pay period, the employees shall not be eligible to apply for paid leave.

"This policy remains in effect during this period of austerity in order to avoid further discomfort to our employees," the governor said.

The \$132 million fiscal year 2011 budget requires unpaid holidays and 16-hour cut per pay period among most government employees, or from the regular 80 hours to only 64 hours per two weeks, as the government faces an unprecedented financial crisis. The Fitial administration, however, said reducing the number of government employees will be a last resort.

## FITIAL

From Page 1

Corp. Inc.—was supposed to provide the CNMI community when it first proposed to extend its lease.

"I already made public my position. I'm not going to renew that lease...because they haven't lived up to their commitment,"

Fitial said in an interview.

Coral Ocean Point is a hotel and golf course in southern Saipan. Its owner spent over \$20 million to build a 55-room hotel and develop the golf course and other facilities during the first 12 years of their operations.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, in a separate interview yesterday, said

Suwaso Corp. applied for an extension of the 25-year lease early this year.

He said DPL asked for Suwaso Corp.'s plans for the next 15 years but did not receive such a plan.

While Babauta said that DPL has yet to formally decide on that application, Fitial had already made his decision known.

Takahiro Omori, assistant

general manager of Coral Ocean Point, said yesterday that they have yet to receive any letter of decision from DPL or the CNMI government.

Omori said absent a formal letter, Coral Ocean Point cannot comment on what the governor told the media.

Fitial said there are several investors "interested" in taking over the lease of where Coral

Ocean Point is, but said it will be up to DPL to decide on what to do with the property.

Babauta said DPL is always supportive of any investment that will generate revenue for the CNMI.

Any lease of public land consisting of more than 5 hectares requires legislative approval.

DPL is tasked with manag-

ing leases of public lands on behalf of people of Northern Marianas descent.

After deducting administrative costs from the collected fees, DPL transfers the balance to the Marianas Public Land Trust, which then invests the money. Income earned from those investments is transferred to the general fund for appropriation by the Legislature.



## 'Healthcare Act complicated and expansive'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The Healthcare Reform Act is complicated, voluminous, and expansive in its attempt to improve accessibility to healthcare for most citizens and legal residents of the U.S., according to Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez.

Making the act even more complicated is that some of its portions do not or may not apply to U.S. territories as it does to states, said Villagomez, speaking at yesterday's annual meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management at the Saipan World Resort.

Villagomez claimed that some parts of the law are the responsibility of the local government, while other parts are the responsibility of federal agencies.

The new federal requirements, for example, are not extended to those operating in the territories.

Making things more complicated are the number of states that have started to challenge the act, Villagomez said, especially as it relates to the individual mandate provision of the law. He cited a recent federal court judge's decision in Virginia who ruled that part of the act is unconstitutional.

"I am sure this is not the last time we will hear about chal-

lenges and whether the act will be changed because of the challenges," said Villagomez.

President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law in March in a bid to expand health coverage, control health care costs, and improve health care delivery system.

### 'Expansion of Medicaid program'

Saipan Tribune learned that the act increases funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program and territories are included in the allotments. It also allows territories to establish an exchange program and receive a portion of the \$1-billion fund from 2014 to 2018 to subsidize premiums for lower income persons.

If a territory decides not to create an exchange, then the allocation will be added to Medicaid funding, Villagomez said.

"Expansion of [the] Medicaid program is being closely studied by our office as it offers 100 percent matching by the federal government for all new enrollees come 2014 for at least three years. This matching then starts to decrease in percentage as we move forward [to] 2019 with some local share," he said.

"With the current economic conditions here in the CNMI, this matching percentage is still a struggle for the Department

of Public Health to meet. With the Medicaid expansion, it will allow those medically indigent populations that currently do not qualify for the Medicaid program to qualify," he explained.

Villagomez admitted that some provisions of the act raise more questions.

"What about those sectors of our population that are not indigent and, even with the Medicaid expansion, still would not qualify for this program? What about our non-U.S. citizen residents? A high number of our Medically Indigent Program population now in the CNMI are those that are truly indigent but do not qualify for any of the subsidy programs because they are not U.S. citizens and/or legal permanent residents of U.S. but do have immigration status here in the CNMI. How do we address their medical care needs?" he asked.

DPH has already received funds for healthcare workforce development through the act and it will use this to expose students to the nursing field. He revealed that students who complete the program are able to sit for the nursing assistant certification examination.

A total of \$300,000 was also provided to DPH for public health infrastructure development and quality assurance in public health.

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# Central govt, two autonomous agencies owe CUC \$3.8M

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The central government, the

Public School System, and Northern Marianas College collectively owe the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. close to

\$4 million, according to executive director Abe Utu Malae.

CUC data show that as of Nov. 30, outstanding arrears

from CUC's top 3 clients total \$3.875 million.

Broken down, the central government owes CUC \$2.481

million; PSS, \$830,526; and NMC, \$563,311.

Malae disclosed that the central government is about two

months behind in its payment while NMC is delayed for about nine months. PSS is behind by two months.

NMC, Malae said, is getting a credit adjustment of \$232,000 based on its past memorandum of agreement with CUC.

"After adjustments, our records show the following accounts receivable [for utility services] for the central government, NMC and PSS. The average monthly billing is about \$1 million for all three and this means that the \$3,875,173 is just under four months," said Malae.

Malae said CUC is required by law to issue disconnection notices but it will first work on "non-critical loads."

When asked about the agency's plan for delinquent customers, Malae said the customer has to make a choice and help CUC decide which meter to disconnect first.

Malae admitted that CUC may run out of money soon for its fuel delivery as a result of uncollected amounts.

"Yes, we have money for fuel but it is fast running out. We used up our line of credit a while back of \$7.50 million, so payment has to be in cash to the oil supplier," explained Malae, adding that fuel prices have increased but the fuel surcharge has not been adjusted upwards yet.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission junked the proposed levelized energy adjustment clause, LEAC, rate increase for the next six months, saying the current rate is just and reasonable. The \$0.24446 per kilowatt-hour rate would remain from October through March 2011.

In November, CUC filed another request to adjust its base electric rates—about \$4.18 per month increase for the typical residential customer, and \$28.30 per month for small businesses. CUC said the rate change would cover a projected yearly operating loss of \$5.6 million. If granted, this would take effect on April 1, 2011.

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MELL SILOSO	014E	12/11 Sat	12/9 Thu	12/9 Thu	12/7 Tue	12/4 Sat	12/17 Fri	12/13 Mon	12/12 Sun	12/5 Sun	12/5 Sun	12/13 Mon	12/17 Fri	12/19 Sun	12/21 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	048E	12/18 Sat	12/16 Thu	12/16 Thu	12/14 Tue	12/11 Sat	12/24 Fri	12/20 Mon	12/19 Sun	12/12 Sun	12/12 Sun	12/20 Mon	12/24 Fri	12/26 Sun	12/28 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	014E	12/25 Sat	12/23 Thu	12/23 Thu	12/21 Tue	12/18 Sat	12/31 Fri	12/27 Mon	12/26 Sun	12/19 Sun	12/19 Sun	12/27 Mon	12/31 Fri	1/2 Sun	1/4 Tue
MELL SILOSO	015E	1/1 Sat	12/30 Thu	12/30 Thu	12/28 Tue	12/25 Sat	1/7 Fri	1/3 Mon	1/2 Sun	12/26 Sun	12/26 Sun	1/3 Mon	1/7 Fri	1/9 Sun	1/11 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	049E	1/8 Sat	1/6 Thu	1/6 Thu	1/4 Tue	1/1 Sat	1/14 Fri	1/10 Mon	1/9 Sun	1/2 Sun	1/2 Sun	1/10 Mon	1/14 Fri	1/16 Sun	1/18 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	015E	1/15 Sat	1/13 Thu	1/13 Thu	1/11 Tue	1/8 Sat	1/21 Fri	1/17 Mon	1/16 Sun	1/9 Sun	1/9 Sun	1/17 Mon	1/21 Fri	1/23 Sun	1/25 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SILOSO	014E	12/25 Sat	12/26 Sun	12/26 Sun	12/28 Tue	12/29 Wed	12/31 Fri	1/2 Sun	SKIP	1/7 Fri	1/8 Sat	1/13 Thu	2/1 Tue	1/12 Wed
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MELL SPRINGLEAF	014E	1/8 Sat	1/9 Sun	1/9 Sun	1/11 Mon	1/12 Wed	1/14 Fri	1/16 Sun	SKIP	1/21 Fri	1/22 Sat	1/27 Thu	2/15 Tue	1/26 Wed
MELL SILOSO	015E	1/15 Sat	1/16 Sun	1/16 Sun	SKIP	1/19 Wed	1/21 Fri	1/23 Sun	SKIP	1/28 Fri	1/29 Sat	2/3 Thu	2/22 Tue	2/2 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	049E	1/22 Sat	1/23 Sun	1/23 Sun	1/25 Mon	1/26 Wed	1/28 Fri	1/30 Sun	SKIP	2/4 Fri	2/5 Sat	2/10 Thu	3/1 Tue	2/9 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	015E	1/29 Sat	1/30 Sun	1/30 Sun	SKIP	2/2 Wed	2/4 Fri	2/6 Sun	SKIP	2/11 Fri	2/12 Sat	2/17 Thu	3/8 Tue	2/16 Wed

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# Kagman rape suspect wants temporary release

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Angel Jess Santos, who has already pleaded guilty in the rape of a 16-year-old Kagman student, has asked the Superior Court to release him to a third-party custodian while he awaits sentencing.

The 21-year-old Santos, one of four suspects in the case, requested the court to review the conditions of a possible pre-sentence release into the custody of his mother.

Santos has been in detention at the Department of Corrections since his arrest on June 18. He failed to post a \$100,000 cash bail.

Santos' lawyer, Joseph James Norita Camacho, said his client has already pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit sexual assault in the first degree as part of a plea bargain and has agreed to testify against his three co-defendants: Alfred P. Hocog, Joseph C. Camacho Jr., and Ivan Jones Castro.

Joseph James Camacho pointed out that it was Santos' cooperation that led to the arrest of the three other suspects.

Hocog, Joseph C. Camacho Jr. and Castro will go on trial on Jan. 3, 2011.

Camacho said the facts of the plea agreement showed that Santos' involvement was minimal as he did not take

part in the sexual assault of the victim.

The remaining charges—kidnapping, conspiracy to commit kidnapping, sexual assault (first degree), aggravated assault and battery, and disturbing the peace—were dismissed as part of the agreement.

The Office of the Attorney General received a copy of Santos' motion on Monday. It was not clear as of yesterday whether the OAG objects or agrees with the motion, which will be heard today, Wednesday, at 9:30am before associate judge David Wiseman.

Under the plea agreement, the jail term to be imposed on Santos will not be less than

10 years, but not more than 20 years.

Police said Santos confessed to being one of three persons who kidnapped the victim and that he only served as a lookout as one of them raped the student at Tank Beach on June 16.

Police said it was Hocog who first beat up the victim and raped her.

Police said the victim was walking toward Kagman High School when one suspect blocked her path. One grabbed her and beat her up repeatedly.

When the victim regained consciousness, she was outside an abandoned building several meters away from where she was attacked.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 22, 1998

### Last-minute funding averts PSS pay cuts

On the eve of the day that a 10 percent pay cut was to take effect, the Public School System has received a \$1.7 million additional appropriation from the CNMI government to help offset its payroll deficit. This funding authorized by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is expected to push back the scheduled pay cut for PSS even if members of the Board of Education were due to meet last night for the crucial decision. With an estimated \$3.6 million payroll deficit for the entire fiscal year, PSS would still need close to \$2 million to move out from payless paydays.

### Charter change on PSS budget tied to politics

The legislative initiative that calls for an increase of budget guarantee for the Public School System is nothing but a political instrument, according to Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, Chairman of the Health, Education and Welfare Committee. "I don't care how much money we pump in to public schools. What I am saying is justify it to the people, show me some correlation between expenditure and performance," he said. Introduced by Rep. Jesus Attao, he is seeking constitutional amendment to extend 25 percent budget guarantee to PSS. The existing law only assures 15 percent. Even if the current provision guarantees this much, the government is appropriating PSS more than 15 percent.

Dec. 22, 2000

### CPA's hand in economic dev't lauded

The Strategic Economic Development Council has commended the Commonwealth Ports Authority's efforts in cutting back airport charges which strengthened the CNMI's competitiveness as a prime tourist destination. Bob Jones, chairman of the SEDC committee on air service initiative, said CPA's earlier decision to rollback charges at the Saipan International Airport makes it easier to sell the CNMI as a destination to airline companies. "We were looking for major factors that would make existing airlines to continue servicing the islands and entice new carriers to come in. CPA's decision is a great contribution to the overall efforts," said Mr. Jones.

### Economic plan promises bright future for CNMI

With a concrete economic blueprint now in the bag, the CNMI government anticipates to generate an additional \$200 million revenues in a four-year period through the revitalization of the islands' tourism industry. Following 15 months of discussions, the Strategic Economic Development Council yesterday unveiled a blueprint seen to alleviate the Commonwealth's financial woes through aggressive marketing and physical improvements. The Council presented the first phase of its economic recommendations to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday, where SEDC Chair Scott Bowman, who is also the regional manager for Duty Free Shoppers, emphasized the advantages of a tourism-based economy for the Commonwealth.

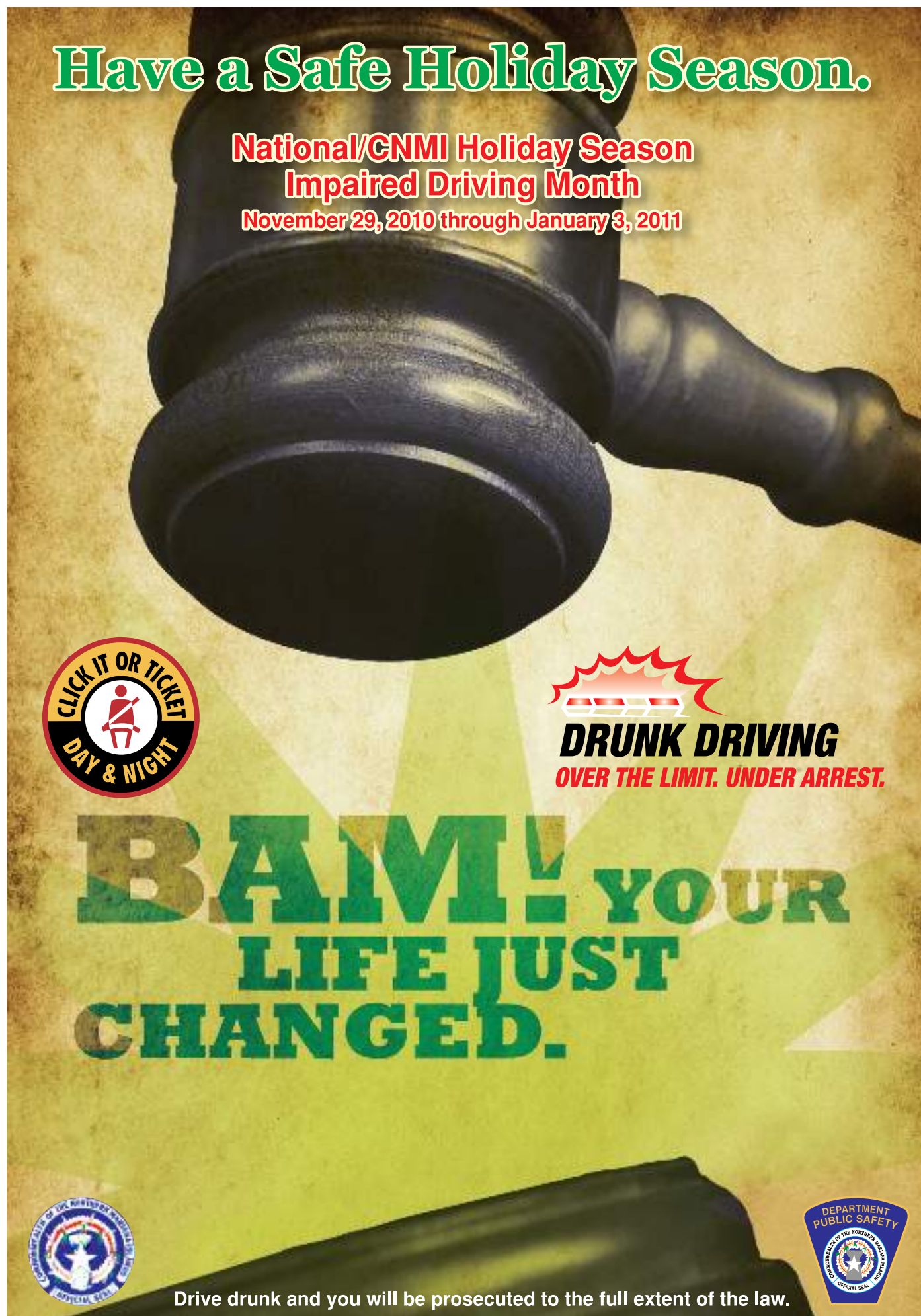
Dec. 22, 2002

### Discussion venue for education issues mullied

The House of Representatives is planning to coordinate an open forum for members of the public education community, where pertinent educational issues may be tackled constructively. The lower House is spearheading the forum in a bid to provide a neutral venue where Public School System and Board of Education officials, as well as teachers and parents, can air their sentiments without fear of retaliation. Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider said the invitation will be extended to everyone, but warned would-be participants not to take the discussions into a "personal" level. "It is always a good rule to remind everybody that the easiest and quickest thing to do in life is to criticize.

### USGS monitors Rota, Guam water supplies

Despite considerable damage to facilities and stream gages resulting from Supertyphoon Pongsona, the U.S. Geological Survey's hydrological team in the Pacific Islands is hard at work assisting in flood assessment and drinking water recovery on the islands of Guam and Rota. "I've been working out here for seven years, and I've never seen a damage like this," said Robert Carruth, USGS's water chief for Micronesia, who is on Guam with a USGS team to assess water problems facing the island. Supertyphoon Pongsona was the second severe typhoon event this year, leaving both Guam and Rota reeling. It struck the islands on Dec. 8 with catastrophic levels of rainfall and winds exceeding 180 miles per hour, and gusts as high as 225 mph on Rota.



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# 'Ex-convict arrested for burglary, found cultivating pot'

Police officers have learned that an ex-convict arrested on Friday for allegedly burglarizing another house has also been engaged in cultivating and selling marijuana.

Detective Jeffrey I. Norita

stated in his report that detectives found out that Arthur Thomas Ramangmau Rauepi and another man have been cultivating pot in the bushes beside their house in Kagman II.

Norita said that, on Dec. 8, 2010, two police officers interviewed a source who disclosed that Rauepi and another man were raising pot near their house.

Rauepi and the other man

both reside in the same house. Saipan Tribune opted not to name the other man as it was not clear whether he was arrested or not.

Norita said that on Dec. 9, 2010, at 12:45pm, members of

the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force went behind the suspect's house and found five marijuana plants on an empty lot about 20 feet from the house. The plants were over a foot tall.

On Monday, the 22-year-old Rauepi was brought to the Superior Court on charges of stealing assorted jewelry and other items from the house of Leslieann Sablan of Kagman II. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## FOA donates cash, goods to Salvation Army

Friends of the Arts donated on Sunday a boxful of non-perishable food items and a check worth \$500 to Salvation Army.

The provisions came from the audience who watched the play *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of a Christmas Carol* on Dec. 19.

The play, written by David

McGillivray and Walter Zerlin, was presented at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater from Dec. 17 to 19.

Admission to Sunday's performance was by donation of any canned or dry goods as well as cash.

Friends of the Arts board chair Susan Fishman-Tudor handed the check and food donations to Salvation Army ministry leader

Wayne Gillespie.

Fishman-Tudor said the cash donation only amounted to a few dollars so they decided to increase the donation in the spirit of the holiday season.

Gillespie said he was pleased and happy as the donations were more than he expected, adding that the Friends of the Arts had been nice to provide entertainment as well as assistance to less fortunate members of the

community.

"We are happy and grateful to Friends of the Arts and all those who attended the play and made donations. The cast and crew for the play worked very hard to make this play happen and the community rewarded them for their talents and efforts. May God bless you all with a very Merry Christmas," said Gillespie. (*Clarissa David*)

Friends of the Arts board chair Susan Fishman-Tudor hands the \$500 check donation to Salvation Army ministry leader Wayne Gillespie after the last staging of *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of a Christmas Carol* at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center on Dec. 19.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



## G4S donates canned goods to Karidat



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anthony M. Gomez, business development manager for G4S Security Services CNMI, presents some 250 canned goods to Karidat executive director Angie Guerrero and administrative officer Judy Pangelinan at the Karidat office in Chalan Kanoa on Monday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

G4S Security Services CNMI donated about 250 canned food items to Karidat Social Services on Monday.

Business development manager Anthony M. Gomez handed the donated canned goods to executive director Angie Guerrero at the Karidat office in Chalan Kanoa.

"We just want to donate to those less fortunate this holiday season and make sure they have the basic necessities," Gomez said after the donation.

According to Gomez, they had a contribution of one canned food item per employee. He said some 240 employees participated in the voluntary contribution.

Gomez told Saipan Tribune that the current economic situation in the CNMI prompted them to come up with the food donation.

"With the work hour reduction in the government, I've found out that a lot of people are coming here [to Karidat] for temporary food assistance," he said.

Gomez said they are looking at making the donation to Karidat an

annual activity for their company as they want to collaborate with agencies with which they can have a long-term relationship.

"Karidat's a great service to the people. They need the community's help to help the community in return," he explained.

Karidat executive director Angie Guerrero said that G4S initially approached them to ask if they still need more toys for the children they serve on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"I told them that Marianas Health Services was already doing the toy drive. What we really have a shortage of is food because not all parishes did the Thanksgiving food drive for Karidat," she disclosed.

According to Guerrero, Karidat usually run out of food supply for their clients from January to April, the period when they do not receive the vouchers they use to purchase their provisions.

"I'm really thankful to G4S because it will keep our pantry stocked. With the austerity in the government, more and more people are seeking food assistance from us. It's harder for families to survive these days so any food assistance is greatly appreciated," she said.



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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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## EDITORIAL

### Politics invade the treatment of breast cancer

Chances are you've never heard of bevacizumab. Marketed under the name Avastin, it is a shining star of a new generation of cancer drugs. It works by blocking the formation of new blood vessels that nourish tumors.

That promise comes at a steep price. The drug can cost \$14,000 or more for a single infusion, though the company that makes it caps the cost for "approved" cancers at \$57,000.

That list includes lung, colon, kidney and brain cancers. Avastin also is approved to treat advanced breast cancer. But, if the U.S. Food and Drug Administration prevails, it may not be.

Last week, the agency took the first step to revoke that approval. If it's finalized, Avastin would remain on the market and doctors still could prescribe it for any patients they believe would benefit.

But it no longer could be marketed for breast cancer, and many insurance companies probably would stop covering it for that use.

The FDA is acting on the advice of an expert panel. It was influenced by a pair of new studies showing that Avastin did not prolong the survival of breast cancer patients, but did increase serious side effects.

The FDA's decision is a close call. The median survival of patients with advanced breast cancer is 18 to 24 months. Avastin did slow the progression of cancer by between one and two months, even if it didn't prolong survival.

Cancer patients are mobilizing to oppose the FDA decision. They are joined by some doctors and the Swiss company that markets the drug.

Another group also has leapt into the fray: Republican politicians and opponents of health care reform.

Many people on the political right have waxed hysterically about "death panels," claiming that the FDA was motivated by Avastin's cost.

A Fox News host called the action "ObamaCare rationing." That's either spectacular ignorance or a cynical attempt to mislead.

Never mind that U.S. health care already is rationed by price.

Uninsured women with advanced breast cancer don't have access to Avastin unless they can come up with the money. We haven't seen much concern about them from opponents of health care reform.

Avastin's cost simply was not a factor in the decision. "The key issue for discussion," according to a briefing prepared for the expert panel, "is the balance of benefit versus risk."

The expert panel's decision, FDA documents show, was based on "the limited effects of Avastin combined with the significant side effects."

Nor did health care reform play any part. The review was triggered by the decision to approve Avastin for advanced breast cancer in 2008—almost two years before health care reform was approved.

Early studies compared the drug to a kind of chemotherapy that even then was falling out of favor. The FDA ordered larger follow-up studies that used a newer chemotherapy protocol. It's those new studies that prompted the latest FDA action.

It's entirely appropriate that the FDA should review the safety and effectiveness of prescription drugs, especially those that were given fast-track approval, like Avastin. That review should be guided by science.

But there are people willing to do anything—to say anything, to mislead and to frighten the terminally ill—if it helps them to posture politically.

Those people are beneath contempt. Unfortunately, they're also all over the Internet and television.

(c) 2010, St. Louis Post-Dispatch



## Exiled by fear

By LORENZA MUNOZ  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

I have never before thought of myself as an exile. All my life I have traveled between Mexico, where I was born, and Los Angeles, my home since I was 6. What do I, whose parents freely chose to leave their country for the United States so many years ago, have in common with Vietnamese, Cubans, Iranians and Iraqis who were forced to flee their homelands, never to return?

Fear.

The headlines tell the story: "Mexico Under Siege," "Deadly Drug Violence Claims Hundreds of Lives," "U.S. Warns of Danger in Mexico as Violence Increases." Or the one about the 14-year-old who matter-of-factly told authorities he had killed people by chopping off their heads and then added, as if exonerating himself, that at least he "never went and hung the bodies from bridges or anything like that."

That story is particularly chilling to me because many of those bodies were hung from bridges in Cuernavaca, the city where my mother's family lives, where I spent summers visiting from the United States. Friends there tell stories of shielding their children's eyes from the dangling corpses that seem to be falling from the sky.

In Cuernavaca, and in Mexico City, our friends do not leave their homes at night. Conversations in restaurants are whispered—no one wants to be overheard saying so-and-so was kidnapped or that so-and-so is a narco. You never know who is sitting next to you. Many people we know have been kidnapped. The 2007 death of Silvia Vargas, a highly publicized kidnapping, hit close to home. Her dad was once my summer swim coach.

That 14-year-old killer is part of a new generation in Mexico that is being called los ni-nis, the "neither-nors," lost boys and young men who proclaim they neither study nor work. They have found plenty to do, however, acting as the cartels' killers, mules and torturers. Usually, the reports say, they are so doped up, they don't even recognize or feel the carnage they are inflicting.

I know that, as with most countries, Mexico has always had a dark and wild side. My own mother and aunt were kidnapped by a powerful cacique in the 1960s. He thought my 14-year-old aunt, with her green eyes, white skin and black hair, was so beautiful he had to have her.

Fortunately, my nervy and intelligent mother (also a great beauty) was with her, and she was able to figure out an escape: opening the door of the moving car, grabbing her little sister's hand and running against traffic down Mexico City's largest boulevard, Paseo de la Reforma.

For several months after the kidnapping, my aunt was escorted to school every day by a friend who was a general in the army. The issue was resolved quietly by my grandfather, a military doctor, when he met privately with the cacique. Nobody knows what was said, but the dirty old man never bothered my aunt or mother again.

In the 1980s and '90s, there were always stories of crimes. During the summers I spent with my cousins in Mexico, we were trained to give a cop his bribe and never allow them to take us in. Somehow, the crime stories always had a twist of kindness or mercy to them that made them almost comical. In his early 80s, my stepgrandfather was mugged every week after depositing his money in the bank at the same time on Fridays. But the muggers were always polite and apologized for having to take his money. A friend who was car-jacked was given bus fare.

There is nothing funny in the stories being told today. There is only fear and lament. And yet, life goes on. My cousins, aunts and uncles will all spend Christmas in Acapulco. They will dance, eat, swim in the sea. I hear the sadness in my grandmother's voice when I tell her we won't be visiting this year. I feel my voice catching as I think about her, 90 years old, sitting in her living room holding the telephone. I remember how beautiful Christmastime is in Mexico, everything decorated in the crimson hues of the season. I can see the poinsettias, noche buenas, blooming in the languid gardens in Cuernavaca, a place the Aztecs called the City of Eternal Spring. The Mexico I like to remember is about love and warmth and family.

I know I am giving in to the media frenzy that sensationalizes the crimes and only covers the horrors in Mexico. But now I have children of my own, and having children makes one a coward.

If my family were to make the trip, most likely, the worst wouldn't happen. After all, the majority of the violence is occurring between drug dealers and their henchmen. Crime rates in general are much worse in Brazil and Venezuela, for instance.

But what if we were to drive under one of those bridges on the wrong day? How would I explain the sight of those hideous, lifeless bodies hanging from above? Or what if our cab driver happened to work for a narco? Or what if we got caught in the crossfire of a shootout? There is no more negotiating, as my grandfather likely did more than 40 years ago. Just ask Silvia Vargas' parents.

It is an ugly, ugly time in Mexico. So now I too have joined the ranks of so many immigrants, exiled in fear, who dare not go back. To be honest, we cannot—because the place and the time we seek no longer exists.

*Lorenza Munoz is a former Los Angeles Times staff writer who has completed her first novel, The Weight of Flight. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*



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## The Linear-Minded Innkeeper

*The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!*

In a previous column, titled “The Greedy Innkeeper” [*Saipan Tribune*; Nov 24, 2010], I told the tale of an apartment owner who was so intent on holding out for the maximum financial return from a guest (me) that he lost the entire deal. I judged him as greedy and ended up with a great title and an instructive story to tell.

However, a wise friend commented:

*“You expected him to think at a much higher intellectual capacity than he could. Some people just have a more linear mind, but that does not make them greedy. He definitely failed to weigh the benefits and consequences, and it’s good that you’ve analyzed the situation and went elsewhere, once you found that your expectations were not being met.”*

So, I stand corrected. And so, with my apologies to the innkeeper (however, I still like the original title), I’ll proceed to the subject of the day: “what is linear vs non-linear thinking, and how can either help the business owner and passionpreneur?”

### Defined

If you search the web, you’ll find many definitions and examples of what constitutes linear and non-linear thinking.

#### Linear thinking:

1. a process of thought or problem-solving following known cycles or step-by-step progression where a response to a step must be elicited before another step is taken.

2. To continue to look at something from one point of view. To take information or observations from one situation, place this data in another situation (usually later), and make a conclusion in the later situation.

You’ll hear the opposite of linear thinking described as “non-linear thinking,” “lateral thinking,” “creative thinking,” and even “systems thinking.”

**Non-Linear thinking:** a technique of problem solving by approaching problems indirectly at diverse angles instead of concentrating on one approach at length.

### Boom! Goes the dynamite!

An example of non-linear (lateral, creative, etc.) thinking in popular culture is the lead character of the MacGyver television series whose strength allowed him to create bombs out of cellophane, twigs and saliva, while a linear-minded counterpart would search for “bombs” in

the yellow pages, call them up and make a purchase.

One example of linear thinking that I found interesting was framed in this way: “Given two otherwise similar job applicants applying for a hotel manager position, whom would you hire: (A) the person with hotel management experience, or (B) the person with experience in an unrelated industry?”

Of course, there are many factors that one would weigh in any such choice, but the example is used merely to illustrate that a linear thinker would conclude person A’s experience in the hotel management industry to mean they would be more qualified, while a non-linear thinker might “think outside the box” and conclude that Person B might bring a fresh new perspective to the position and might make them even more qualified.

The point is simply that the ability to think outside of and beyond traditional ways of thought can be useful for any business owner.

### Lateral Applied

Of course, the entire process and adventure of turning one’s passion into profit is an ongoing exercise in escaping from linear thinking when it comes to certain basic questions.

#### ■ How can I earn money?

Linear: Get a job, get a salary (that’s why it’s called Linear income!) Non-linear: turn your passion into profit

#### ■ How can I market my product?

Linear: Buy ads, use “interrupt marketing” Non-Linear: use “word of mouth/mouse,” employ social networks

#### ■ How can I earn more in my current business?

Linear: Charge more, or perhaps charge less! Non-Linear: Charge less or perhaps charge more!

This is a unique question that varies in its applications. It’s been shown, for example, that charging a higher price for a product can sometimes increase its perceived value and result in more sales. For other items, charging less can also bring a product within the reach of more consumers and you can then, as the saying goes, “make it up in volume.”

Over the course of many years doing business on the Web, I’ve had my own linear thinking challenged, and have learned, for instance, that:

■ *Sometimes the best way to make a lot of money with a book is to give it away for free!*

■ *Sometimes the best way to make more sales is to make the “buy” button harder to find.*

■ *Sometimes the best way to make a lot of people aware of something is to take pains to make it a secret.*

### So back to our innkeeper

To illustrate in previously used terms, let’s say you are an innkeeper interested in making a profit. You have a potential client who is a foreigner (and, you know, those foreigners are known to have more money to spend). You think to yourself, “In order to make MORE money, I must charge MORE per day. Then, 30 days multiplied by X

## Footloose and fancy free

By **JAIME R VERGARA**  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

We’ve reported on our landscape and mindscape journeys on rail both in the U.S. and China, on our forays into the lagoon and biking on Saipan primarily between San Antonio and Lower Base, trekking through cold *Dong Bei* (Manchuria, northeast China) most recently, and now that our well-liked Schwinn racer bike has found home in someone else’s good service, we are left with the good old limbering leg power, save in our case, more like lumbering shuffle down the road. With notable and uncomfortable symptoms of diabetes suddenly bedeviling our physique—blurry sight, parched throat, and muscle numbness—going footloose doesn’t seem too harsh as “what the doctor ordered.”

From our digs at Finasisu Terraces on Tun Antonio Apa Rd that connects NMC in As Terlaje to Tun Joaquin Doi Rd in Fina Sisu, and moving westward toward the CK Post Office, we tested the muscle power of our rheumatoid arthritic knees and see how far we can make it. Save for a slight hump by old Ladera ISS, and the dogs that used to chase me in my bike mysteriously no longer on the road, it was easy going until our calves began to tighten on the way down the 10-degree incline almost to the point of a cramp by the time we leveled off at Lake Susupe and CK.

We did almost lost our breath and the Holy Ghost on a brief stretch as we descended down to the more even part of the terrain. A pickup driver had something on his dashboard roll over to the passenger side, and in his attempt to catch it from falling at 35 mph, he almost swerved into our path and almost clipped us within inches. His face was more horrified than mine when he realized he was about to hit a pedestrian but he was able to swerve in time, and happily, there was no incoming traffic to cause a head-on collision. He did not stop, nor did I bother to memorize his tag.

After we took several deep breaths, and decided that we would

like to keep that drama to last us a long, long time, we noticed that the ornamental plants where we receded off the road dug in along Tun Joaquin Doi Rd, a highly publicized aesthetic and public relations exercise by Mobil’s employees and volunteers, are already overwhelmed by the grass, hiding the plants’ unmistakable reddish color. Having been part at one time of the group T.R.E.E.S. with Patrick Calvo and the Groom family, along with Ken Kramer when he was still with USDA and Jeff Boyer of Shell, et al, who tried to either by ourselves or assist eager Rotarians to plant trees and shrubs along the roadways of Saipan, I learned that it is easy to stick them on the ground but it takes more effort to cultivate and maintain their growth.

We planted shrubs and trees by the Quartermaster Rd’s mounted tank, with one between the planned solar-powered and rainwater-supplied public toilet that became of particular interest. The first one I planted as my contribution to the new mini-amphitheatre died. Our SVES 6th grade class used the meeting place to hear lagoon ecology issues with the Coral Reef folks, and meet Lino Olopai’s Carolinian outrigger canoe. A small group of Japanese dignitaries shoveled in another tree to replace my withered one so I covered the event for the *Tribune* and I ended up taking it as my personal “baby” to grow. When we had a spate of *El Niño*, I took five-gallon bottles to water the tree and the rest of the plants until the rains came back. “My” tree is still alive, albeit cut in half by a wayward bush cutter and it will probably be the last thing I say “goodbye” to should I ever leave island for good.

Anyway, for health reasons and thawing whatever remained of the frozenness our three-score-and-a-quarter-old body encountered recently in *Dong Bei*, we will be on foot for a while. More than the low level perspective of the bike rider, we will be literally viewing things from the ground up.

We made it to the CK Post Office but, of the content of our mailbox, more found their way to the trash bin than to our backpack. The P.O. is a losing proposition; the cost of emptying the trash from the

## THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

*Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By **WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including *Turn Your Passion Into Profit*.

Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now lives a nomadpreneur lifestyle. To learn more, visit [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com).

dollars per day will equal Y dollars! I’ll be rich!”

The non-linear thinking innkeeper next door, on the other hand, thinks about other options, steps back to see the big picture, and thinks, “Well, if I charge too much, I might scare him away. Rather than lose the entire sale and earn \$0 for the month, I will charge LESS per day, but still earn a sizeable monthly profit that is better than nothing at all. I’ll be rich!”

So, both innkeepers could be equally greedy—or not—but one, by simply applying a different type of thinking, could achieve the desired outcome.

### And back to you

Now, this doesn’t mean that all linear thinking is “bad.” However, since today’s focus is on the non-linear, here’s the question: *What traditional, linear ways of thought and action are YOU applying to your life and your business that are not working, and might be challenged by more lateral, creative and non-linear thinking?*

I’ll leave you with two quotes to ponder until next we meet:

*“Problems cannot be solved by the same level of thinking that created them.”—Einstein*

*“If you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you always got, and you’ll always feel what you always felt.”—credited to many including Krishna and Einstein*

■ ■ ■

**Note:** Where will YOUR passion take you? What sort of life would you live if you could? Find out what’s possible. Check out my new adventures on [jamaicaninchina.com](http://jamaicaninchina.com).

**Note:** Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to [www.bestofsaipan.com](http://www.bestofsaipan.com)!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to [walt@passionprofit.com](mailto:walt@passionprofit.com).

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section

bins that people throw away must be more than a penny.

We were confident with our physical stamina. Being an urban trans migrant from rural *Pinas* (Philippines), I felt I had enough foundation to last another mile to the intersection of Beach Rd and Chalan Msgr. Guerrero. I needed to pick up printer cartridges from one of the Oleai stores. The motorists were kind to let me cross the road twice. They stopped, flashed their lights and signaled me to walk. Not to take away their good manners but I was wearing a visor, which might have made me looked like a tourist! Still, given the reported untoward road incidences of late, our travel on foot was uneventful. We could use a pedestrian lane between the PO and the Saipan Grand Hotel, or better yet, make that all the way from PIC to the pathway on both sides of the road!

After getting our groceries, we finally called a \$3 taxi to return to As Terlaje. Yes. We patronize service providers in the informal economy. After taking a metered taxi from the airport to Finasisu for \$17 very early in the morning when there was no traffic at all, my friend Raby Syed notwithstanding, I am calling my connections, Zhongguo and Yanbian, for transport needs!

And in the next few weeks, we will share our reflections while footloose on Saipan, for as long as our calves stay healthy, and us, as always, fancy free.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼77
Palau	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼74
Kosrae	Sunny	▲88 ▼76
Majuro	Sunny	▲84 ▼76

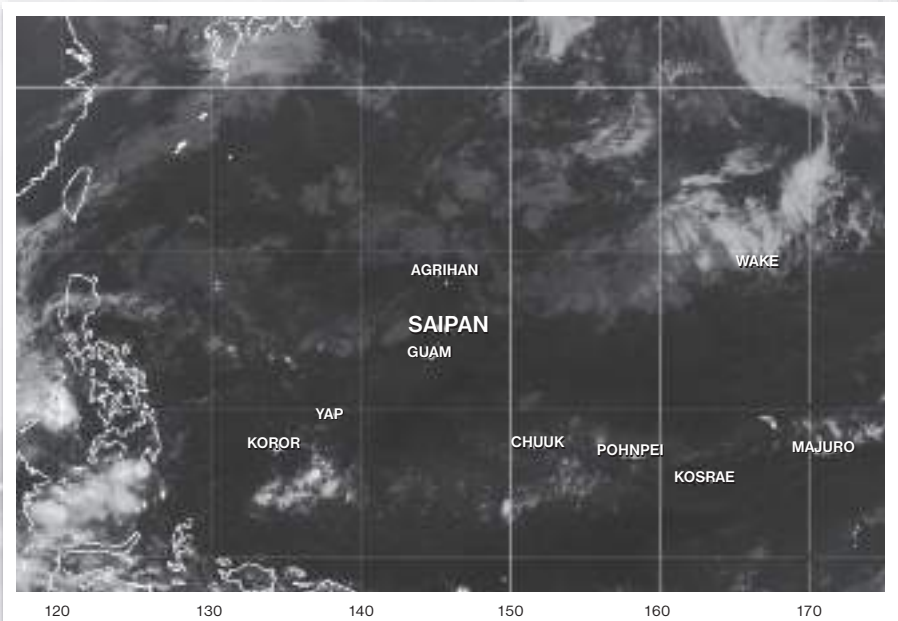
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼66
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲24 ▼8
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▼52
Honolulu	Showers	▲79 ▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲34 ▼23
Los Angeles	Rain	▲59 ▼46
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲70 ▼53
Miami	Sunny	▲74 ▼55
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲37 ▼28
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲55 ▼42
Paris	Snow	▲37 ▼31
Pusan	Sunny	▲50 ▼24
Rome	Rain	▲60 ▼50
Salem	Showers	▲46 ▼43
San Francisco	Showers	▲58 ▼50
Seoul	Sunny	▲35 ▼9
Tokyo	Sunny	▲58 ▼44
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲40 ▼29

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
2:08 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
9:20 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
2:35 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet	
7:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2010**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front curves southwestward from 25N170E to near 18N150E then continues west-southwestward across the CNMI to 14N136E. Scattered showers are occurring west of the Marianas within 80 miles of a line from 14N137E to 16N143E and east of the CNMI within an area bounded by a line from 16N149E to 17N161E to 20N171E to 25N171E to 25N158E to 19N149E back to 16N149E. A surface trough extends northwestward from Asuncion Island at 19N145E to 24N138E. Scattered showers are found within 100 miles of the trough axis. Low-level convergence west of a weak circulation centered southwest of Chuuk at 4N145E is generating scattered showers southeast of Koror between 3N and 6N from 133E to 140E. Convergent west-southwest flow is producing scattered showers east of Kwajalein atoll within 80 miles of a line from 8N169E to 10N180.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:39 AM	5:52 PM
Thursday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Friday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Saturday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Sunday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:48 PM	7:11 AM
Thursday	7:49 PM	8:05 AM
Friday	8:49 PM	8:55 AM
Saturday	9:48 PM	9:42 AM
Sunday	10:45 PM	10:27 AM

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM						GUAM-SAIPAN					
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily			C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6			C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6		
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7			C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7			C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7			C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7		
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily			C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily		
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily			C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily			DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily		
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6			DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7		
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily			DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)						OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN					
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily			OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7			OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1			OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX		
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7			OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7		
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX			OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6			FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only			CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN		
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM			DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7		
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT			C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM		
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM			OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN		
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau			OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM			PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM		
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau			PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM		
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN			C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau		
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7			C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau		
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM		
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG						HONG KONG-SAIPAN					
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN			OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM			OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN			C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM		
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)											

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE														
Airline			ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline			ETD	ETA	Frequency			
Guam-Rota						FRE 113						11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100			7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115			13:00	13:10	Daily			
Rota-Saipan						FRE 117						14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100			8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119			16:00	16:10	Daily			
Guam-Rota						FRE 121						16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300			17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123			17:40	17:50	Daily			
Rota-Saipan			17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 125			18:30	18:40	Daily			
Saipan-Rota						Tinian-Saipan								
FRE 200			9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102			7:05	7:15	Daily			
Rota-Guam			10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104			7:50	8:00	Daily			
Saipan-Rota						FRE 106						8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400			18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108			9:00	9:10	Daily			
Rota-Guam						FRE 110						10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400			19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112			11:05	11:15	Daily			
Saipan-Tinian						FRE 114						12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101			6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116			13:30	13:40	Daily			
FRE 103			7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118			14:50	15:00	Daily			
FRE 105			8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120			16:20	16:30	Daily			
FRE 107			8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122			17:00	17:10	Daily			
FRE 109			9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124			18:05	18:15	Daily			
FRE 111			10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126			18:50	19:00	Daily			



# US commits to repair Palau Compact road

**KOROR, PALAU**—The U.S. Department of the Interior’s Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Tony Babauta, was joined by U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Palau Helen Reed-Rowe in announcing a commitment to fund the repair of damaged sections of the Palau Compact road. The announcement was made at the conclusion of the 14th Micronesian Chief Executives’ Summit hosted by the Republic of Palau.

Joining regional leaders from Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the state governors from Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae, Palau President Johnson Toribiong issued a statement expressing his gratitude and ap-

preciation for the close working relationship between the U.S. government and Palau.

Toribiong also thanked newly installed U.S. Ambassador to Palau Helen Reed-Rowe for her leadership and commitment to forging a valuable and solidified partnership between both governments.

“The commitment the U.S. makes today to repair the Palau Compact road reflects the ongoing friendship between Palau and the United States,” said Babauta. “Palau, along with the FSM and the RMI, are important allies to the United States in the Pacific. U.S. Ambassador Reed-Rowe and I have been working to respond to President Toribiong’s request for assistance and we were pleased to be able to share

this announcement with him at a time when Palau was hosting leaders from around the Pacific. The repair and maintenance of the Palau Compact road is a priority for President Toribiong as it is the single largest infrastructure investment and will allow ease of travel for Palau’s residents, as well as economic development on Babeldaob.”

The U.S.-Palau Compact road is a 53-mile long road that encircles the island of Babeldaob, the largest of Palau’s more than 300 islands. The construction of the road was completed in 2006 as part of the terms of the Compact of Free Association signed by Palau and the U.S. in 1994. Several years later, portions of the road were damaged during heavy rain and flooding. *(DOI/OIA)*



CHRISTINA DOUGLAS/9<sup>TH</sup> MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND  
Brig. Gen. Michele G. Compton, commanding general of the 9<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Command, shares her command priorities and focus areas with Saipan Army Reservists and family members here in a town hall meeting at the American Memorial Theater.

## Army Reserve commanding general hosts town hall for soldiers, families

By **CHRISTINA DOUGLAS**  
9TH MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND

The command team of the U.S. Army Reserve’s 9<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Command met with local Army Reservists and family members in a town hall meeting recently held at the American Memorial Park Theater on Saipan.

Brig. Gen. Michele G. Compton, the commanding general of the 9th MSC, and Command Sgt. Maj. Forrest Wacker hosted the town hall to express their gratitude for the selfless service of the soldiers and family members.

During the town hall, Compton shared her priorities and focus areas, while Wacker offered professional development advice to the soldiers.

The leaders also opened the floor up for questions, encouraging the soldiers and families to ask anything on their minds. Both Compton and Wacker answered questions ranging from upcoming facility improvements and possible mission opportunities, to how to get promoted.

“It’s been a quick visit, but an important one,” said Compton, during the town hall. “I’m very impressed with the caliber of soldiers here and our mission-ready units. You all have done a phenomenal job.”

Prior to the town hall, the commanding general met with local leaders and government officials, and toured Army Reserve facilities. Compton came directly from Iraq, where she

visited her deployed soldiers, including those from Guam and Saipan.

Besides Saipan and Guam, Compton’s Army Reserve command, the 9th MSC has soldiers throughout the Pacific, including American Samoa, Japan, Korea, Alaska, and the Hawaiian Islands.

Guam and Saipan are home to numerous subordinate units to include the 302<sup>nd</sup> Quartermaster Company; 368<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company; E Company of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment; 411th Engineer Battalion’s 797th Engineer Company; the 3303<sup>rd</sup> Mobilization Support Battalion; and the Theater Support Group’s Marianas Detachment.

scheduled to depart early next week. *(SCC)*

### AMP Pacific Historic Parks Bookstore schedule

American Memorial Park Visitor’s Center and Pacific Historic Parks Bookstore will be closed Dec. 25, 2010, and Jan. 1, 2011. The bookstore is offering a 10-percent discount for sale over \$20. This offer is good until Dec. 31, 2010, usage schedule is at 10am-5pm everyday. For more information call the Visitor’s Center at 234-7207 Ext. 2020. *(PR)*

### Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana Ofisinan I Gubietno Dipattamenton I Tano’ Pupbliku

#### NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSIONS FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extensions of leases on certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. These lease extensions are subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The leased premises are described as public land Lot Nos. 057 E 09, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, and 057 E 10, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, both situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The lessee is South Pacific Lumber Company, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are James C. Whang and Charles C. Whang.  
  
The President/Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporation is James C. Whang. The Vice President is Charles C. Whang.
- iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. James C. Whang.
- iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating warehouses, office spaces and show rooms.  
  
The term of the lease agreement extensions is 15 years.  
  
The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.
- v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before December 24, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

#### NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN INEKSTENDEN INATKILON TANO’ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano’ Pupbliku guini ha nã'i notisia ni intesion-ña para u rekomenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na tãno' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Este na inekstenden atkilon siha manmasuheto para i inapreban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas gi sigun ni mamãnda ni mapega huyong gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha hãyi na petsona siha gi halom i pupbliku henerãt siha na ha'hãlom i infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tãno' pupbliku. Sigi mãs mo' na mapribeniya ginen i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesen infotmasion ni madimãnda ni debi na u mapupblika.

- i. I lugãt atkilon siha madeskribe komu tano' pupbliku Lot Nos. 057 E 09, kinonsiste ãrian kãsi guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus mãs, yan 057 E10, kinonsiste ãria kãsi guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus mãs, parehu gaige gi Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugãt gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikonosimiento.
- ii. I manatikikila i Kompanian i South Pacific Lumber, i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpon i Direktot i Corporation siha si James C. Whang yan si Charles C. Whang.  
  
I Presidente/sekritãrio/Tresureron i Corporation si James C. Whang. I Segundo na Presidente si Charles C. Whang.
- iii. I mapropone na ekstension atkilon manegosio gi as Siñot James C. Whang.
- iv. I manatikikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugãt siha uniku para i rason i maneran warehouses, kãmpo ofisina siha yan show rooms.  
  
I teman i kontrãtan atkilon ha ekstende gi 15 ãños.  
  
I mapropone na atkilon sãkkan durãnten i tema sigun i porcentaje gi bãlen i fair market value gi propiadãt siha.
- v. Kopian i manmapropone na ekstension atkilon na kontrãta siha siha machule' gi ofisinan i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha, gaige i segundo bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; Songsong, Luta; pat i primet 1st floor gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. I Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha tãya' ha risibi tinahguen propositu siha para suheton atkilon tãno' pupbliku siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. I Sekritãrion i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha debi na u akseptã i tinige' i infotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñon kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat ãntes di Disembre 24, 2010 gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha ni gaige Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

#### ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sãngi Tãlil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekki atotoowow ammatãf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Kkãpasal akkilon ye e sobwosobw nge ebwe alughulugh mereel Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature sangi Article XI, Tãlil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Commonwealth Teel faluw kka faluwasch Efang Marianas. Schóókka eyoor mãfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiighiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekki bwãári Lot No. 057 E 09, eyoor eluww sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3, 245 square meters), elapéló me ngãre eghús, me 057 E 10, eyoor eluww sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3,245 square meters) elap me ngare eghus, elo Lower Base, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngãre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéshchéél schóól akkilon nge South Pacific Lumber Company, CNMI corporation. Schóóy Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellól corporation nge James C. Whang me Charles C. Whang..  
  
Samwoolul/Treasurer/Sekkretorial corporation nge James C. Whang. Aruscheyil samwool nge Charles Whang.
- iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. James C. Whang..
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááli bwuley reel ammwelil warehouse (sokko), office spaces (leliyal bwulasiyo) me leliyal akkate (show rooms)..  
  
Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years).  
  
Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sãngi llapal méél falúw ( value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú mellól bwuley yeel.
- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songson, Luta; me ngãre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúluyól.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipél..
- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mãngemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal December 24, 2010 (Tumwur) mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luta, Tchúluyól.

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### USS Hampton arrives today

The USS *Hampton*, a 362-foot Los Angeles-class submarine with approximately 148 officers and crew, will arrive this morning, Dec. 22. The *Hampton* last visited Saipan in the spring of 2009. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is urging the community to help the CNMI continue to build its reputation as the preferred MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) destination in the Asia-Pacific region by warmly welcoming these sailors to the islands. The *Hampton* is



## Business

## CTSI opens state-of-the-art warehouse in Guam



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CTSI Guam general manager Danny Lim, executive vice president George Chiu, and CTSI president Jerry Tan pose with the resolution presented by Sen. Tina Barnes and Sen. Tom Ada.

**TIYAN, Guam**—CTSI Logistics Guam recently opened a new concrete storage facility at the Guam International Airport Industrial Park in Tiyan. Corporate officials and local dignitaries attended the official unveiling of the new 38,100-square-foot expansion last Dec. 14 in Guam.

The \$6-million facility expands the company's storage capacity and places them in a prime area for incoming air freight.

CTSI officials proclaim the new facility as one of the most advanced in this region and said it would provide cost relief and improved efficiencies throughout the supply chain.

"It is exciting for us to demonstrate to our partners, our cus-

tomers, our suppliers, and our employees that we're setting the new standard for the most effective and efficient means of warehousing and distribution in our industry," said CTSI Guam CEO Jerry Tan.

Tan said "the brand new building was constructed of 100 percent concrete material in order to protect stored goods and products from destructive typhoons; it is also equipped with a state-of-the-art security system to safeguard client's interests."

"Previously, the company had a small office near the airport and would transfer cargo between the office and its \$4-million distribution center

in Tamuning. But the process was difficult and time consuming," CTSI vice president said Ivan Quichocho.

"We managed to fill up that facility quickly, and since we didn't have any room for expansion, we decided to put up another building," Quichocho said. "We were waiting for the right time to build this facility, and because of the buildup, we believe this is the right time."

The company has established military and commercial customers who will benefit from the new facility and looks to its experience in the air and sea freight operations that it has conducted for the past 20 years.

The facility will house of-

fices, open storage areas, five temperature-controlled rooms, and two chiller rooms which are able to reach freezing point and provide storage for frozen goods.

"This facility was a purpose-built project. We called upon

our years of experience within the industry and are proud that our customers will receive the best protection and care of their products," added Tan.

"Our company and our family have been in Guam and the surrounding region for almost

40 years. In that time we've been made significant investments and created significant relationships in the business and local communities. This new facility is an example of our ongoing commitment to Guam and the region." (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CTSI president Jerry Tan is flanked by Guam Lt. Gov.-elect Ray Tenorio and Gov.-elect Eddie Calvo.

▼ CTSI Logistics Guam's newly opened 38,100-square-foot concrete storage facility at the Guam International Airport Industrial Park in Tiyan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Toyota to pay \$32.4M in extra fines

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Toyota Motor Corp. has agreed to pay the government a record \$32.4 million in additional fines to settle an investigation into its handling of two recalls at the heart of its safety crisis. The Transportation Department said late Monday the civil penalties will settle investigations into how Toyota dealt with recalls over accelerator pedals that could get trapped in floor mats, and steering relay rods that could break and lead to drivers losing control.

## Oil hovers above \$89 ahead of US supply reports

**SINGAPORE (AP)**—Oil prices hovered above \$89 a barrel Tuesday in Asia as traders anticipated that weekly U.S. crude inventories would fall in a sign of improved demand. Benchmark oil for February delivery was up 4 cents to \$89.41 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 77 cents to settle at \$89.37 on Monday.

## Soon the government check won't be in the mail

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Before too long, the government check will no longer be in the mail. Officials have settled on the dates when millions of people will no longer be able to get their Social Security and other benefit checks by mail. New recipients of benefits will have to accept paperless payments starting on May 1 of next year, three months later than first proposed.

## FCC poised to adopt network neutrality rules

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—New rules aimed at prohibiting broadband providers from becoming gatekeepers of Internet traffic now have just enough votes to pass the Federal Communications Commission on Tuesday. The rules would prohibit phone and cable companies from abusing their control over broadband connections to discriminate against rival content or services, such as Internet phone calls or online video, or play favorites with Web traffic.



## Winter disruptions turn travel bitter and chaotic

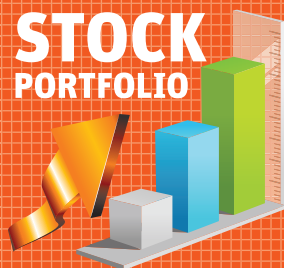
**LONDON (AP)**—The Christmas travel season turned angry and chaotic Monday as British officials struggled to clear snow and ice that paralyzed rail and air links and spawned cancellations and delays stranding thousands around the world.

More than 48 hours after Britain's last snowfall, some furious passengers with boarding passes for Monday flights were not even allowed into London's Heathrow Airport. Inside, piles of garbage grew and some people slept on terminal floors.

Other travelers waited in the cold for up to six hours to get inside London's St. Pancras train station, where they had to wait still longer for Eurostar trains to mainland Europe.

Chagrined British officials promised an inquiry into the

failure to clear the remnants of a storm that dumped five inches over parts of England Saturday morning. Other European airports rebounded from weekend snowfall and resumed close to normal flight schedules by Monday.



## LEADING INDICATORS

**DOW**  
11,478.10  
13.78  
0.12%

**S&P**  
1,247.08  
3.17  
0.25%

**NASDAQ**  
2,649.56  
6.59  
0.25%

## EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms	
Australian Dollar	1.0028
British Pound	0.6426
Canadian Dollar	1.0160
Chinese Yuan	6.6597
Euro	0.7577

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7749
Indian Rupee	45.2150
Indonesian Rupiah	9,040.5
Japanese Yen	83.7250
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1311
New Zealand Dollar	1.3365

Philippine Peso	44.3250
Singapore Dollar	1.3153
South Korean Won	1,154.5
Swiss Franc	0.9621
Taiwan Dollar	29.8760
Thailand Baht	30.1700



# Nation

## In tough economy, Santas are also suffering

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** (AP)—Craig McTavish—a.k.a. Santa—has the beard. He has the belly. He even has a few tricks up his sleeve, like pulling up to parties on his Harley-Davidson in full Kris Kringle garb.

But there's one thing he doesn't have: work.

For freelance Santas, this holiday season has been more "no, no, no," than "ho, ho, ho." Bookings have declined as paying \$125 an hour for Santa to visit a holiday party has become an unaffordable luxury. It's the second year of declining parties and events, Santas say.

"This year has been a bust as far as making any money," said McTavish, a retired firefighter who co-owns a landscaping business with his son. "I've booked nothing. Usually there's always something for Christmas Eve, but I don't even have that."

In addition to knowing which children have been bad or good, the modern-day Santa also hears which families don't have enough money for presents.

"You can see the downturn from the chair," said Nicholas Trolli, the president of the Amalgamated Order of Real Bearded Santas—a 1,700-member social group the Boston Herald once dubbed "The Nation's Premier Fraternity of



In this photo taken Friday, Dec. 17, 2010, seven-month-old Cameron Vegas looks at Santa John Wenner as he greets people in Philadelphia.

A-List Santas."

Trolli lives in Sarasota, Fla., but travels around the country as a hired Santa. On a recent day, he worked a mall in Kansas City that had to lower photo prices by 20 percent.

"People are telling us they just can't afford a photo with Santa," Trolli said.

Even in-demand Santas with real beards have had to slash rates, Trolli said. They once commanded \$200 an hour, but

now they're charging half that.

Trolli said that anecdotally, his members' bookings are off about 25 percent. Other Santas around the nation said that in good years, they booked 40 events a season and are down to fewer than 10. Others who once booked 10 events a year are down to none.

Most Santas don't rely on the gigs as a primary source of income, but they say they enjoy doing it and the extra money is nice.

John Wenner, a Santa with a real beard from Woodbury Heights, N.J., said his last good year was 2008, when he booked dozens of private parties and corporate jobs. This season, he's only had a few gigs.

"They're way down this year," Wenner said. "It's amazing how down. I've even cut back my price a little bit, to help sway a little more business. As it is, the way the economy has been, it's getting tough."

## US Military will write the rules on repeal of gay ban

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—No public displays of affection. No separate bathrooms. No harassment and no special treatment. As the U.S. military begins to map out how it will implement the new edict allowing gays to serve openly, the first order of business is drafting the regulations. The rule changes under discussion won't dictate how troops feel about the change, but will strictly enforce how they act on it.

From small wording tweaks and training programs to more complex questions about benefits and religion, the proposed guidelines demand that gays and lesbians be treated just like any other soldier, sailor, airman or marine. But they also leave the door open for some flexibility in room assignments or other instances when commanders believe it's needed to maintain order and discipline in their units.

The Senate voted Saturday to repeal the ban on openly gay service, following earlier action by the House. Fulfilling a 2008 campaign promise, President Barack Obama plans to sign the bill into law on Wednesday at a Department of Interior ceremony. But in letters to the troops over the weekend, the four mili-

tary service chiefs warned that the ban is still in place, and will be for some time to come.

"The implementation and certification process will not happen immediately; it will take time," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz said in an e-mail to airmen. "Meanwhile, the current law remains in effect. All Air Force members should conduct themselves accordingly."

Recommendations to implement the repeal were outlined in a 67-page report last month, and now must be formed into concrete regulations. Defense officials said Monday that they still don't know how long it will take before the Pentagon completes its implementation plan and certifies the change will not damage combat readiness. Once certified, the implementation would begin 60 days later.

The report, however, provides a fairly detailed preview of what troops and the American public can expect, once the new rules are in place.

And it puts the heaviest burden on commanders who will have to walk a fine line between enforcing the updated code of military conduct and recognizing when they may need to make some concessions.

## Exonerated Texas man uses freedom to help others

**HOUSTON (AP)**—A courthouse seems like the last place Michael Anthony Green would choose to spend his time following his release this summer after 27 years in a Texas prison for a rape he didn't commit.

But each weekday, Green walks past metal detectors and police officers in the lobby of the Harris County Criminal Justice Center and makes his way to the 20th floor. There, he sits in a small office and pores through letters written by inmates discussing possible problems with their cases.

Since his release in July, after new DNA tests showed he was innocent, Green has worked for his attorney as a volunteer, reading letters from inmates, looking for others who might be wrongfully imprisoned.

"We might find a case where there's another me that I can help," said Green, 45.

According to the Innocence Project, a New York-based legal center that uses DNA to challenge convictions, 261 inmates in the U.S. have been exonerated post-conviction with DNA, most of them since 2000. Texas leads the nation with 40 cases. After his release, Green's attorney, Bob Wicoff, approached Green about working for him to review cases.

Wicoff said he became impressed with Green's knowledge of the law during their prison visits. "It was pretty apparent he knew a lot more law than any other inmate I've met," Wicoff said.

Each day, Green reads inmate letters and fills out a two-page form that summarizes the claims and whether they have merit. Green looks for cases where DNA could play a factor. A typical letter is one written by an inmate in prison for rape. The inmate claims the victim sought charges because he broke his promise to give her illegal drugs. The inmate also claims he had a bad attorney.

"He doesn't deny having sex but that it was consensual," said Green, a stack of other letters next to him. "There is nothing that can be challenged, other than the ineffective assistance of counsel. But that is his word against the attorney's."

Green said most of the letters he reads are about burglary, robbery and murder cases where in-



In this photo taken Friday, Dec. 17, 2010, seven-month-old Cameron Vegas looks at Santa John Wenner as he greets people in Philadelphia.

mates claim they are innocent but that nothing can be done because either there is no DNA to test or such testing wouldn't make a difference.

Wicoff said while the focus is DNA cases, they are also on the lookout for other potential legal problems.

Once motivated by anger, Green said he is now driven by a need to help others who might have been wrongfully convicted and by, of all things, a love for the law.

That love for the law began, oddly enough, after Green was convicted in 1983 for raping a woman who had been abducted by four men from a pay phone in north Houston and taken to a remote location. Green was detained by officers that night as he walked in the area.



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
Office of the Executive Director



### INVITATION FOR BID CUC-IFB-11-016

#### SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF OFFICE SUPPLIES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Office Supplies for the CUC Saipan, Tinian and Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

**One (1) original and Seven (7) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-016, Supply & Delivery of Office Supplies", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 21, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the goods, based on bids for "Commodity Groups"

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bid award per commodity group will be given to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder whose bid is responsive to all specification and requirements.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **Friday, January 14, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - [msablan@cucgov.net](mailto:msablan@cucgov.net) with a copy to Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email [charles\\_warren@cucgov.net](mailto:charles_warren@cucgov.net) and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - [mika\\_muna@cucgov.net](mailto:mika_muna@cucgov.net).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**ABE UTU MALAE**  
Executive Director



# Asia

## SKorean troops bracing for a possible NKorean attack

**YEONPYEONG ISLAND, South Korea (AP)**—South Korean President Lee Myung-bak gathered his national security leaders for strategic talks Tuesday as troops braced for possible North Korean retaliation a day after conducting artillery drills on an island the North bombed last month.

North Korea has so far backed off threats to strike the South again for conducting live-fire military drills on Yeonpyeong Island. Similar drills last month triggered a North Korean artillery attack that killed four South Koreans, including two civilians.

Still, South Korea's military said it was prepared for any unexpected North Korean provocation.

"We will mobilize reconnaissance and surveillance assets of South Korea and the U.S. combined force and intensively monitor North Korea's military activities," Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin told lawmakers before leaving for the security meeting.

Meanwhile, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson praised North Korea's "statesmanlike" restraint as he wrapped up a four-day trip to North Korea.



South Korean marines patrol along on Yeonpyeong island, South Korea, Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2010.

Richardson, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations who has served as an unofficial envoy to North Korea in the past, told Associated Press Television News in Pyongyang that his trip yielded "positive" results.

"It was a good visit—positive results in our discussions with North Korea," he said Tuesday morning before boarding a plane in Pyongyang.

Richardson said the North agreed to let U.N. atomic inspectors visit its main nuclear complex to make sure North Korea is not producing en-

riched uranium for a nuclear bomb, according to a statement from his office.

The United States, however, indicated skepticism that North Korea would do anything more than talk.

"North Korea talks a great game. They always do," U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said in Washington. "The real issue is what will they do. If they are agreeable to returning IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) inspectors to their country, they need to tell the IAEA that."

## Philippine coup plot suspect freed after 7 years

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A former Philippine navy lieutenant accused of leading a 2003 coup plot before winning a Senate seat from jail has been released from seven years in detention in a presidential amnesty for military rebels, officials said Tuesday.

Antonio Trillanes IV is the most prominent of about 300 troops who seized an upscale Manila hotel on July 27, 2003, to demand the resignation of then-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for alleged corruption. Although they surrendered

the same night without a shot fired, the mutiny underscored the Philippines' political instability during Arroyo's tumultuous 9-year reign.

Trillanes thanked President Benigno Aquino III for the amnesty and promised to work with him as he walked out of his cell at the national police headquarters late Monday.

"I believe it will take a while before I recover my bearings, but it's a pleasant experience," he told GMA television, adding he plans to attend a Senate ses-

sion for the first time in January.

Aquino took office after a landslide election win in May promising to end corruption and in October granted amnesty to all officers and soldiers accused of plotting against Arroyo.

Nine of the officers pleaded guilty to coup charges and were sentenced in 2008 to prison terms of 12 to 40 years. They later apologized to Arroyo, who pardoned them. But Trillanes maintained he did nothing wrong and went on trial though there has not yet been any outcome.

mostly just water.

### Malaysia bus crash kills 28, mainly Thai tourists

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)**—A double-decker bus carrying Thai tourists overturned on a Malaysian highway Monday, killing 28 people on their way back from a hill resort in the country's worst road accident in years. The tourists were heading to Kuala Lumpur after a weekend trip to the popular Cameron Highlands in central Malaysia when their bus spun out of control and crashed into a protective barrier, a district police official said. The bus then flipped over and landed beside a rocky slope,

he said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to make public statements.

### Militants destroy 2 NATO tankers in NW Pakistan

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)**—A Pakistani government official says militants have fired rockets at a NATO convoy carrying supplies to Afghanistan, destroying two oil tankers and wounding two people. Iqbal Khan says traffic along the route has been suspended after Monday's attack in the Khyber tribal region. He says two people traveling in the tankers sustained burns when the trucks were engulfed in flames.

# World

## Pope: Church must reflect on what allowed the abuse

**VATICAN CITY (AP)**—Pope Benedict XVI told Vatican officials Monday that they must reflect on the church's culpability in its child sex-abuse scandal, but he also blamed a secular society in which he said the mistreatment of children was frighteningly common.

In his traditional, end-of-the-year speech to Vatican cardinals and bishops, Benedict said revelations of abuse in 2010 reached "an unimaginable dimension" that required the church to accept the "humiliation" as a call for renewal.

"We must ask ourselves what was wrong in our proclamation, in our whole way of living the Christian life, to allow such a thing to happen," the pope said.

Benedict also said, however, that the scandal must be seen in a broader social context, in which child pornography is seemingly considered normal by society and drug use and sexual tourism are on the rise.

"The psychological destruction of children, in which human persons are reduced to articles of merchandise, is a terrifying sign of the times," Benedict said.

He said that as recently as the 1970s, pedophilia wasn't considered an absolute evil but rather part of a spectrum of behaviors that people refused to judge in the name of tolerance and relativism.

As an avalanche of cases of pedophile priests came to light, church officials frequently defended their previous practice of putting abusers in therapy, not jail, by saying that was the norm in society at the time. Only this year did the Vatican post on its website unofficial guidelines for bishops to report pedophile priests to police if local laws require it.

"In the 1970s, pedophilia was theorized as something fully in conformity with man and even with children," the pope said. "It was maintained—even

within the realm of Catholic theology—that there is no such thing as evil in itself or good in itself. There is only a 'better than' and a 'worse than.' Nothing is good or bad in itself."

"The effects of such theories are evident today," he said.

The traditional Christmas speech to Vatican cardinals and bishops is an eagerly anticipated address that Benedict uses to focus the church hierarchy on key issues.

Benedict has previously acknowledged that the scandal was the result of sin that the church must repent for, and make amends with victims. He repeated Monday that the church must do a better job of screening out abusers and helping victims heal.

"It is fundamentally disturbing to watch a brilliant man so conveniently misdiagnose a horrific scandal," said Barbara Blaine, president of the main U.S. victims' group Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests.

## 12 men arrested in suspected UK terrorism plot

**LONDON (AP)**—In the biggest anti-terrorist sweep in Britain in nearly two years, police on Monday arrested a dozen men accused of plotting a large-scale terror attack on targets inside the United Kingdom.

The suspects, who ranged in age from 17 to 28, had been under surveillance for weeks and were believed to have links to Pakistan and Bangladesh, security officials said.

The arrests come amid growing concerns in Europe over terrorism following a suicide bombing in Sweden and reported threats of a terror attack on a European city modeled on the deadly shooting spree in

Mumbai, India.

Police swooped in before dawn Monday in coordinated raids on houses in four cities—London, the Welsh city of Cardiff and the English cities of Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent. The officers were unarmed, suggesting any planned attack was not imminent.

The raid, a joint operation by Britain's domestic spy agency MI5 and police, was the largest since April 2009, when 12 men were detained over an alleged al-Qaida bomb plot in the northern city of Manchester.

Counterterrorism officials declined to give more details of the latest alleged plot, say-

ing only that the men had been under surveillance for several weeks. No details were given as to whether explosives or arms were found, and searches were under way in the homes where the arrests took place.

"The operation is in its early stages so we are unable to go into detail at this time," said John Yates, Britain's senior counterterrorism police officer.

Still, he said Monday's raids, involving a dozen suspects across the U.K., indicated they were planning something big.

"This is a large scale, pre-planned and intelligence-led operation involving several forces," Yates said.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### UN Security Council extends Ivory Coast mission

**ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)**—The U.N. Security Council extended its peacekeeping mission in Ivory Coast on Monday, hours after the United Nations' top envoy in the West African country said armed men had been threatening staff in their homes. Incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo's refusal to concede defeat in last month's election and his demand that peacekeepers leave have raised fears that U.N. personnel and other foreigners could be targeted in violence. Over the weekend, masked gunmen opened fire on the U.N. base there, though no one from the global body was harmed in the attack.

Two military observers were wounded in another attack.

#### Dog in Germany gives birth to 17 puppies

**BERLIN (AP)**—A dog in Germany has given birth to 17 puppies, leaving their owner thrilled but fatigued after having to feed them with a bottle for several weeks because their mother couldn't cope with the demand. Owner Ramona Wegmann said Monday she barely slept for more than a couple of minutes without interruption during about four weeks in an "exhausting" struggle to make sure all of the purebred Rhodesian Ridgeback puppies would survive. She said when she was "finished feeding the last puppy, the first was hungry again."

#### US: Chavez's rejection of diplomat to have impact

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**—President Hugo Chavez's government formally rejected Washington's nominee for ambassador Monday, and the U.S. State Department said the decision will have consequences on relations with Venezuela. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said Venezuela's government presented an American diplomat in Caracas with a note withdrawing its consent for Larry Palmer to be appointed ambassador. Crowley reiterated that the U.S. stands behind its nomination of Palmer, who is awaiting Senate confirmation.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### China jails 8 for selling fake rabies vaccine

**BEIJING (AP)**—China's state news agency says eight people have been sentenced to prison terms of up to two-and-a-half years for selling fake rabies vaccines that contributed to the death of one boy. The official Xinhua News Agency said Monday a court in southwestern Guangxi region sentenced Zhang Dazhi to 30 months' jail while seven others were handed one-year prison terms. Xinhua says the eight defendants sold more than 530 doses of fake rabies vaccines between August and December last year. It says the vaccines were made of



## Focus

**We are afraid for our sons and our children.  
There is no life in Baghdad for the Christians.**

**T**hey saw their brethren murdered during Mass and then were bombed in their homes as they mourned. Al-Qaida vowed to hunt them down. Now the Christian community of Iraq, almost as old as the religion itself, is sensing a clear message: It is time to leave.

Since the Oct. 31 bloodbath in their Baghdad church, Iraqi Christians have been fleeing Sunni Muslim extremists who view them as nonbelievers and agents of the West. At a time when Christians in various parts of the Muslim world are feeling pressured, Iraqi Christians are approaching their grimmest Christmas since the U.S.-led invasion of 2003 and wondering if they have any future in their native land.

They have suffered repeated violence and harassment since 2003, when the interreligious peace rigidly enforced by Saddam Hussein fell apart. But the attack on Our Lady of Salvation in which 68 people died appears to have been a tipping point that has driven many to flee northward to the Kurdish enclave while seeking asylum in the U.S. and elsewhere.

What seemed different this time was the way the gunmen brazenly barged onto sacred ground, the subsequent targeting of homes by bombers who clearly knew every Christian address, and the Internet posting in which al-Qaida-linked militants took responsibility for the church attack and vowed a campaign of violence against Christians wherever they are.

Ban Daub, 51, narrowly survived the onslaught. She and her nephew were at prayer when they heard explosions. They escaped before five attackers stormed in, but many of their friends did not. A neighbor died clutching his son and daughter in his arms.

Days later a string of bombs went off outside Christian homes across Baghdad. Daub and her family packed a few belongings and headed to a Christian district called Ainkawa in this Kurdish city of Irbil.

"We are afraid for our sons and our children. There is no life in Baghdad for the Christians," she says.

Since 2003 no Iraqi religious or ethnic group has escaped violence. Tens of thousands died in bombings and street battles between minority Sunnis and the Shiites who supplanted them in power after Saddam Hussein, the longtime dictator, was toppled.

But like many of Iraq's minorities, Christians do not have political clout or militias.



In this Dec. 10, 2010 photo, pictures of slain Iraqi Christians are displayed during Mass at Our Lady of Salvation church in Baghdad, Iraq.

# Grim Christmas for Iraqi Christians as many flee

By REBECCA SANTANA  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Even before the church attack, thousands of Christians were fleeing abroad. They are more than a third of the 53,700 Iraqis resettled in the United States since 2007, according to State Department statistics.

How many Christians remain in this nation of 29 million is not reliably known. A State Department report says Christian leaders estimate 400,000 to 600,000 remain, down from a prewar level as high as 1.4 million by some estimates.

In the Middle East and in Muslim countries beyond, Christians are finding themselves subject to violence and harassment. The Vatican is so worried that it hosted a two-week meeting of Mideast bishops this fall, dedicated to supporting Christian minorities.

In Egypt, at least two people died and more than 150 were arrested last month in clashes between Christians and authorities over the building of a new church. In an ominous sign that militancy is transcending bor-

ders, the militants who carried out the Baghdad church siege said they were acting on behalf of two Egyptian women who they claimed were being persecuted by their priests for converting to Islam.

In Pakistan, a Christian woman is under sentence of death for allegedly insulting the Prophet Muhammad.

In Saudi Arabia, textbooks sometimes contain language intolerant of Christianity as well as other religions besides Sunni Islam, according to the State Department report on religious freedom.

In Malaysia, a court decision last year allowing a Catholic newspaper to refer to God as Allah, the Arabic word for God, sparked a spate of arson and vandalism against Christian churches.

Following the Baghdad church mayhem, some European countries offered asylum to Iraqi Christians. But Younadam Kanna, a Christian member of Iraq's Parliament, worries that

such Western intercession will be seen as discrimination by Iraqi Muslims who wonder why outside countries are so quick to offer assistance to Christians but are often silent when Muslims are attacked in Iraq. This could drive a wedge between Iraq's Christians and Muslims.

"We are a small community here, and we are trying to resist and stay in our homes," Kanna said.

More than 600 Christian families fled to the Kurdish area after the church siege, said the Kurdish interior minister, Karim Sinjari. More may have come without registering with authorities.

The Kurds are Muslims who have suffered oppression and discrimination but now have an autonomous, Western-supported homeland in northern Iraq. Iraq's president, Jalal Talabani, who is a Kurd, has gone so far as to suggest something similar for Iraq's Christians. Meanwhile the Kurdish government has set up a committee to help the fleeing Christians. Proposals in-

clude letting them transfer their government jobs to the Kurdish provinces and allowing students to study in Kurdish colleges and universities.

"They've been part of Iraq for years. They are part of the community. They are part of the history. They are part of the culture of this country," said Sinjari, who heads the committee. He believes Christians who come to Kurdistan are more likely one day to return to their homes than those who leave Iraq.

Ainkawa, the Christian enclave 320 kilometers (200 miles) north of Baghdad, has churches, Christmas trees for sale, and a population that has swelled from 7,500 to 22,000 since 2003, according to Ainkawa Mayor Fahmy Matti.

Christians have been in Iraq since earliest Christian times, and although there are several denominations, their enemies do not discriminate.

The Our Lady of Salvation church is Syrian Catholic, and Miriam Suleiman is Syrian

Orthodox, but days after the attack her house was the target of a bomb.

She and her family are renting an apartment in Irbil for \$500 a month, her son is on unpaid leave from his government job, and her daughter had to drop out of medical school in Baghdad. Still, they have no desire to go back.

"Maybe there will be peace and stability, but suddenly the situation will deteriorate," said Suleiman, 61. "We want to go abroad. That is it."

Matti, the Ainkawa mayor, said that about 70 percent of the Christians who moved there after the church attack came from Baghdad, and others from Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of here.

Mosul is one of the last bastions of Sunni extremists, who sow terror through assassination, targeting Iraqis of all faiths but Christians in particular.

About 10 Christian families from Mosul recently found refuge at St. Matthew's, a monastery founded in A.D. 374 by a persecuted Christian and now home to a few monks. The families live in the stone rooms, their laundry drying in the courtyard and their kitchen utensils piled on the shelves.

A 23-year-old woman, requesting anonymity for fear of reprisals, said that in Mosul she would try to blend in by keeping her head covered, Muslim-style. She said people would say "Oh, so you are supported by the West because you are Christian. ... They say it is not your country. You should leave."

That is not so easy.

To emigrate, Iraqis need a passport, and must apply for it in their city of residence—in the monastery refugees' case Mosul, the place from which they fled. A monk at the sanctuary, who for his safety identified himself only as Joseph, said Christians trying to get out often cannot afford hundreds of dollars in bribes to obtain a passport.

Ban Daub and her family fled to neighboring Syria in 2006. In 2008, having been denied asylum and told Baghdad was getting safer, they returned to the capital. A few months later a bomb blast rained glass shards into their bedrooms.

Daub's nephew, Izz Annan Azziz, said that after he left Baghdad for Irbil, a Muslim friend would call daily, assuring him it was safe to come back.

Then another Christian was killed, and the friend called to say that maybe it was best he leave Iraq for good.

*Associated Press writer Sameer N. Yacoub in Amman, Jordan, contributed to this report.*



## Campus Life

# Kobe Bryant a hit at his high school

By KATE FAGAN  
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

**PHILADELPHIA**—The snow slowed even Kobe Bryant.

On Thursday night, Lower Merion High School's gymnasium dedication started about 45 minutes late because the man to whom it was being dedicated was stuck on slippery roads, behind slow-moving traffic.

When Bryant finally arrived, it was to the rock-star-worthy shrieks of approximately 4,000 folks—kids, parents, and locals—who seem to consider the Los Angeles Lakers' star as the epitome of awesomeness.

Bryant's Lakers are in the middle of an Eastern swing that will put them on the Wells Fargo Center court against the 76ers on Friday night.

But on Thursday, it was all about the Lower Merion ver-

sion of Bryant, the high school sensation who led the Aces to the 1996 PIAA state basketball championship and then skipped to the NBA a few months later.

Thursday's lineup featured the school's marching band, dancers, and a cappella performance, and many speakers, including the Lakers' Derek Fisher and Bryant himself.

"It's not Showtime," joked Lower Merion principal Sean Hughes, "but we do like to throw a party at Lower Merion."

In reminiscing about the parade after the Aces' 1996 state title, speaker Wendell Holland, a "distinguished alumnus" (and former chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission) said: "It was like the Phillies in 2008 and it is like we're going to be with the Eagles in February of 2011."

That brought a round of ap-

plause. All of Thursday night's ceremony was dedicated to the growing legacy of Lower Merion's most famous alumnus: Bryant, a five-time NBA champion at age 32.

"Just seeing the work ethic, just seeing the time, I was there," remembered Aces teammate Jermaine Griffin. "I watched Kobe put in that work. You talk about dedication, attitude, determination, that dude KB, that's where it's at."

The list of speakers was wide-ranging, from Bryant's high school coach to his high school English teacher, Jeanne Mastriano.

"You sustain us, you inspire us, you gladden our hearts," Mastriano said. "I treasure the fact you're a part of our family. I love you for that. Thank you."

The stories told about Bryant were filled with nostalgia.

Bryant's coach at Lower Merion, Gregg Downer, even pointed out one crucial, little-known, fact: That Bryant still wears his Lower Merion shorts under his Lakers shorts.

"When the game is over, no more cameras, lights are off, he's not the kind of guy who'd typically sign up for something like this," explained Fisher. "This is not his kind of thing. ... That's the part of Kobe that I think is so greatly appreciated."

Bryant himself spoke only briefly, admitting that public speaking made him nervous.

"You demand greatness from yourself," Bryant said. "If I ask you guys for anything, I ask you guys to remember that for as long as you can."

Bryant concluded: "I'm going to calmly put myself out of my misery and slide back to my seat."



Los Angeles Lakers NBA basketball player Kobe Bryant, foreground, waves during a dedication ceremony for a new gymnasium at Lower Merion High School, Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010, in Ardmore, Pa. AP

## Kagman High student receives national honor

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Kagman High School junior Allyssa Shara-Mae Arangorin was recognized for her superior academic achievement after being bestowed a membership in the prestigious National Society of High School Scholars.

"On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice, and commitment that Allyssa has demonstrated to achieve this level of academic excellence. Allyssa is now a member of a unique community of scholars—a community that represents our best very best hope for the future," said the society's founder and chair

Claes Nobel in a letter.

He said Arangorin joins an exceptional group of the best and brightest high school students who share a commitment to excellence, education, and world betterment.

The 16-year-old student is the daughter of Norbe and Manolo Arangorin.

In an interview yesterday, the scholar said she was elated upon receiving the good news.

"I feel so honored about this recognition. Since I started my high school, it's really my dream to become a member

of this prestigious group...and I got it," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that she will continue pursue excellence in her studies to attain her future goals.

According to National Honor Society of Scholars president James Lewis, it is the vision of the society to build international

organization that connects members with meaningful content, resources, and opportunities.

"We aim to help students like Allyssa build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive im-

pact on the global community."

Membership in the society entitles students to a wide variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, member-only resources, publications, participation in programs offered by educational partners, online forums, personalized recognition items, and publicity honors.

The NHSS was formed in 2002 and recognizes excellence at the high school level and encourages members of the organization to apply their unique talents, vision, and potential for the betterment of themselves and the world. At present, there are more than 530,000 society members in over 160 countries.



Arangorin



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### POLICE PRESENTATION

The Traffic Division visited the Marianas High School on Monday to educate students about their unit and explain the purposes of each division and also have the students experience the vision of a drunk driver using some goggles made for the exercise. Picture shows MHS students, teachers, and vice principal Christine Tudela posing with DPS Crime Prevention Unit under traffic commander Sgt. Anthony Macaranas, police officer Maverick Saures, police officer Antonio Kaipat, and detective Buddy Igitol, who were the lead presenters.

## Breast-feeding benefits academic performance 10 years later

By SHARI ROAN  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

**LOS ANGELES**—Breast-feeding infants for at least six months appears to give children an advantage in school, according to a study published Monday in the journal *Pediatrics*.

Many other studies have also found a small effect on school performance from breast-feeding. This study, however, was unique in that boys appeared to benefit the most. The researchers, from the University of Western Australia in Perth, have followed 2,868 children since the early '90s. The study showed that, at age 10, boys who were breast-fed for six months or longer scored higher in math, reading and spelling compared with boys who were breast-fed for less than six months. Girls who were breast-fed for at least six months showed a small improvement in reading. The researchers controlled for other factors that could influence school performance, such as family income and education and how often the child was read to.

Breast milk is rich in long-chain, polyunsaturated fatty acids that are critical to brain development. It's not clear why boys showed the largest gains from being breast-fed, but the authors explain that male babies are known to be more vulnerable in infancy than females. They speculate that breast-feeding "accelerates the rate of maturation in boys."

Boys may also benefit more from the mother-child relationship facilitated by breast-feeding. "A number of studies have revealed that male infants are more reliant than female infants on maternal attention and encouragement for the acquisition of cognitive and language skills," the authors wrote.

Breast-feeding confers a lot of other benefits too. Children who are breast-fed seem to have greater protection from viruses and a lower risk of developing asthma, allergies and—later in life—obesity and diabetes. Public health experts urge women to nurse their babies exclusively for the first six months of life.



## Life & Style

# Betty White voted AP entertainer of the year

NEW YORK (AP)—What Betty White did in 2010 doesn't usually happen: an 88-year-old actress with more than six decades in Hollywood suddenly became the object of adulation of the Facebook-connected masses, which campaigned for her to host "Saturday Night Live," boosting the show's ratings and helping her set ratings records for her own show.

After a year remarkable for a star of any age, White has been voted the Entertainer of the Year by members of The Associated Press.

"It's ridiculous," White says of the honor, in an interview from her home in Los Angeles. "They haven't caught on to me, and I hope they never do."

But more than acclaim, her unlikely, age-defying success resonated deeply with people who saw in her a spirited, hilarious aberration, a woman not dimmed by age but enhanced by it: The genuine article in a pop culture awash in imitators.

There were 102 ballots submitted from U.S. news organizations that make up the AP's membership. Voters were asked to cast their ballots for who had the most influence on the entertainment world and culture in 2010. Previous winners include Taylor Swift, Tina Fey and Stephen Colbert.

The final tally was close: White's 20 votes beat the cast of "Glee," Fox's hit musical, by only two votes. Tied for third with 13 votes were Conan O'Brien, James Cameron and Apple's iPad. Jon Stewart closely followed with a dozen votes.

White's 2010 began with her acceptance in January of a lifetime achievement award from the Screen Actors Guild. Her speech, in which she thanked SAG "from the bottom of my bottom," reminded many of her talent—showcased for years on "The Golden Girls" and "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"—for a sharp comedy cloaked by warm charm.

Gesturing at presenter San-



In this publicity image released by Workman Publishing, actress Betty White is shown on the cover of "The Betty White Calendar 2011," which will be available in September.

dra Bullock she asked, "Isn't it heartening how far a girl as plain as she is can go?"

The appearance led to a fan-created Facebook campaign urging "SNL" to make her a guest host. After White's award-winning Snickers Super Bowl ad, more than 500,000 were supporting her on the social networking site.

It wasn't a new idea to the NBC sketch program, though. White says that she had turned down "SNL" three times before.

"I thought I was so Californian and it's so New York-oriented that I would be like a fish out of water," she says. "This time, my agent said, 'No, you've got to do it.' ... But I was

scared to death."

"It was the insecurity, I think, that had me scared," she says, noting that she can't stand using cue cards, a necessity for a live show that's revised until minutes before broadcast. A tip to focus on the cue cards instead of her fellow actors helped, but she still had to adjust. "I thought, 'How do you not look at Tina Fey when you're standing right next to her?'"

But the show came off incredibly. Airing on Mother's Day weekend in May, most of the recent female "SNL" alum returned for the show, including Fey, Amy Poehler and Rachel Dratch. White appeared in every sketch and the episode was watched by 12.1 million view-

ers, one of the show's biggest audiences in years. The appearance also won White her seventh Emmy, for outstanding guest actress in a comedy series.

Will Forte, a longtime cast member who has since left the show, wasn't alone in describing it as the best show he had ever done.

"Each week is not always super fun," said Forte. "From every step of the way, (that week) was just a joy. There was this energy about her that was so wonderful."

For those who didn't know White, she was a breath of fresh air. For others, they were seeing her anew.

"She re-entered the hearts of all ages in 2010," said Mark Vasche, editor and vice president of the Modesto Bee in California, "from parents and grandparents who watched her on 'The Mary Tyler Moore Show' and 'The Golden Girls,' to their kids and grandkids who discovered her spunky octogenarian style in film and used the Internet to petition for her 'Saturday Night Live' appearance."

All the feting has come as a surprise to White.

"It's been phenomenal, but everybody keeps congratulat-

ing me on my resurgence and my big comeback," she says. "I haven't been away, guys. I've been working steadily for the last 63 years."

So what changed?

"I don't know," she says. "I've had my own following all that time. If they want me to go away, if they get tired of me, just stop asking me because I keep saying, 'Yes.'"

Thanks to her eagerness, White was everywhere in 2010. She guest starred on "Community" and "The Middle," and co-starred in the movie "You Again."

Though she had initially signed up for only the pilot to TV Land's comedy "Hot in Cleveland," she stuck around for its 10-episode first season and is currently filming its 20-episode second season. The show's first episode set a record for TV Land with nearly 5 million viewers.

"How do you walk away from something that's that much fun?" says White of the show, which also stars Valerie Bertinelli, Jana Leeves and Wendie Malick. "It's the happiest set in the world."

"My sales resistance is not very good," says White. "I have the backbone of a jellyfish."

## Actor falls on set of Broadway's 'Spider-Man'

NEW YORK (AP)—A 31-year-old actor on the set of the Broadway musical "Spider-Man, Turn Off the Dark" fell about 30 feet (nine meters) during a performance and was taken to a hospital, fire officials said Monday.

Firefighters were called to the Foxwoods Theatre at about 10:45 p.m. Monday. The unidentified actor was taken to Bellevue Hospital with minor injuries, police said. His name was not immediately released.

Rick Miramonte, a spokesman for the production, said the actor fell about seven minutes before the end of the performance, and the show was stopped.

"All signs were good as he was taken to the hospital for observation," Miramonte said.

It's the fourth time an actor has been hurt in connection with the production. The show's official opening has been pushed back 27 days, from Jan. 11 to Feb. 7.

The \$65 million musical was conceived by Tony Award-winning director and co-writer Julie Taymor and U2's Bono and The Edge, who wrote the music. More than eight years in the making, delays and money woes have plagued the show's launch. Three other accidents have injured actors, including one who had both his wrists broken while

practicing an aerial stunt.

The first preview on Nov. 28 did not go well. The musical had to be halted five times because of technical glitches and actress Natalie Mendoza—who plays Spider-Man's evil love interest Arachne—was hit in the head by a rope and suffered a concussion. Her injury would eventually keep her sidelined for two weeks.

The show—whose costs easily dwarf Broadway's last costliest show, the \$25 million "Shrek The Musical"—may be about a comic-book hero, but it has now itself become easy fodder for comics, with both Conan O'Brien and "Saturday Night Live" spoofing the show.

*In Loving Memory*

## †Rosa Cruz Reyes

March 14, 1941 - December 17, 2010

was called home by our Heavenly Father at the age of 69.

**In her new life, she now joins her:**

**Parents:** †Vicente Taitingfong. Cruz/+Ana Cruz Manalo

**Parents-in-laws:** †Vicente Reyes/†Maria SN. Reyes

**Brothers:** †Juan L/†Magdalena D. Cruz, †Pedro L. Cruz, †Vicente L. Cruz

**Sisters:** †Maria C. Masga, †Juanita C. Baletto

**Brothers and Sisters-in-law:** †Rosamistica N. Cruz, †Nicolas Baletto, †Prudencio SN. Reyes, †Joaquin SN. Reyes, †Jose SN/†Catalina C. Reyes, †Remedio R. †Ignacio Dela Cruz, †Estefania SN/†Tobias Muna, †Edward B/†Maximina R. Flores, †Ursula SN. Reyes, †Alfonso SN. Reyes,

**Her love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of her:**

**Husband:** Donicio San Nicolas Reyes

**Children/Spouses & Families:**

Bernadita C. Reyes Michael/Ritalynn (Tomika), Sylvestre/Christine Ursula C. Reyes/Michael Viches - Dimitri, Anisia

Ana R/Thomas Erickson - Roque/Diane (Daisy Mae, Dennis), Ringo, Rino, Melvalyn/Carlos Aldan (Susana, Carlos, Carwin). Mercy, Thomas, Edith

Joan R/Gilbert M. Cabrera - Gilbert, Trinidad/Conrad Cruz (Colton, Conrad Jr), Rosa Ann (Kiwalani, Kailani), Ana, Jilvany (Glandon), Juan

Marie C. Reyes/Edward DLC. Shai - Eldred/Paulina (Noelani, Damian Drake), Mildred, Elgene, Melgirene (Edward Jade)

Donicio C/Trinidad C. Reyes - Lawrence Sayer "Kojo", Kiara

Vincent C/Nieves U. Reyes - Donicio, Vincent, Nicky

Joe John C. Reyes/Aileen SN. Taitano - Dorsha (Jaydoria Rolyana) Moses, Joe John Jr. Becky Ann

**Brother/Sister/Spouse:** Manuel L. Cruz, Estella C/Henry DLG. San Nicolas

**Brother/Sisters-in-law:** Leon G. Masga Maria Q. Cruz, Anuncia A. Reyes,

**Additionally survived by numerous relatives and friends.**

Daily rosary is being prayed nightly at the Tinian Health Center at 8:00 p.m. Last respects will be paid on Thursday, December 23, 2010, at the San Jose Church at 7:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 am. Interment will follow thereafter at the San Jose Public Cemetery where our beloved †Rosa will be laid in her final resting place.

*Un Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen I Koraason-mami*

### I Familia



# Nicole Kidman

## weeps in 'Rabbit Hole,' revels in home life

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Nicole Kidman is giving audiences grief with her latest drama, "Rabbit Hole," playing a disconsolate woman coping with the death of her child.

Yet 10 years after one of Hollywood's most-publicized splits, the breakup of her marriage to Tom Cruise, Kidman is in the happiest of places, with little to sob about.

After a shaky few years when she made such duds as "The Stepford Wives," "Bewitched," "The Golden Compass" and "The Invasion," Kidman is back in Academy Awards contention for the first time since back-to-back nominations for 2001's "Moulin Rouge!" and 2002's "The Hours," which earned her a best-actress Oscar.

Kidman also is a producer on "Rabbit Hole," opening Friday as the first release from her production company, Blossom Films.

She's four years into her marriage with country music star Keith Urban. Kidman, who had a miscarriage while married to Cruise, now has a 2-year-old daughter with Urban. The family has settled so comfortably at their Nashville home that Kidman is not terribly inclined to rush out looking for work.

"I'm in a place where I just don't want to take on too much," Kidman, 43, said in an interview. "It's not about, 'Oh my gosh, I've got to get all these things for myself,' because I love being at home. But you know, my husband and my mother will say, 'You shouldn't just abandon your talent. You should still get out there and do some things every now and then, because you'll appreciate that over the next couple of decades.'"

"And I suppose deep down, I know they're right, because part of me could easily just keep nesting and staying at home. It's really nice."

**Kidman is in the happiest of places, with little to sob about.**

Kidman never seems to stay in nesting mode for long. She is preparing to shoot the HBO movie "Hemingway & Gellhorn," playing war correspondent Martha Gellhorn opposite Clive Owen as Ernest Hemingway.

Then she is signed for director Lasse Hallstrom's "The Danish Girl," based on a novel inspired by painter Einar Wegener, the first man to have a sex-change operation.

Kidman also has a supporting role in Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston's comedy "Just Go With It," coming next year.

All this comes on top of her own filmmaking chores, some only as producer, some to develop good roles for herself, always an issue for actors as they get older and choice parts dry up.

"She's my hero," said "Rabbit Hole" co-star Aaron Eckhart. "Anybody who complains about their position or plight in this industry is not looking at things the right way. They're not being proactive enough. They are not taking control of their destiny, and she is. She is first and foremost interested in acting and telling good stories. ... She works her ass off, and she's totally committed to filmmaking."

Rather than playing it safe, Kidman seeks out edgy filmmakers—Lars von Trier, who directed her in an arthouse variation of torture-porn in "Dogville," or Noah Baumbach, for whom she delivered a mercilessly raw performance in the sibling drama "Margot at the Wedding."

Likewise, for "Rabbit Hole," Kidman brought in John Cameron Mitchell to direct, an unlikely choice for a somber drama given the outrageous sexual and social exploits in his previous films, "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" and "Shortbus."

"She's always willing to take a risk, which you don't always see our other wonderful actresses doing. They're content to relax into whatever Hollywood movie is next, and she's got this hungry urge to expand her horizons," Mitchell said.

"She actually says that she doesn't feel like she's as good in the popcorn movies. She's like, 'I just feel like I don't know how to do them.'"

Kidman clearly knows how to do smaller, more personal stories such as "Rabbit Hole." The film earned her

a Golden Globe nomination, and she seems a safe bet for her third best-actress slot at the Oscars.

Based on David Lindsay-Abaire's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "Rabbit Hole" stars Kidman and Eckhart as a couple straining to save their marriage and make sense of the death of their young son in a traffic accident.

A tough story to watch. Even tougher to perform in.

"It was kind of like, why am I doing this? Am I masochistic? But at the same time, I felt compelled to tell the story," Kidman said. "There's no right or wrong way of navigating grief, and this is just a study, almost like a case study, of it, of two people and their marriage and their family, and how they somehow move through it."

"But they move through it moving toward each other rather than away. They say 80 percent of couples that go through this don't make it, but I didn't want to make that movie."

The movies Kidman does want to make are varied. She and producing partner Per Saari are looking for stories that need a helping hand amid uncertain times in the film world, when studios are interested mainly in the next blockbuster and filmmakers with challenging scripts are scrounging.

"It's not like some huge offices or anything. We have a laptop, and we make phone calls, but there's just the two of us, and we just have a couple of things that we're really invested in," Kidman said.

Among potential projects are a remake of Marilyn Monroe's "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," in which Kidman would not star, and a film biography of singer Dusty

Springfield, in which she's not sure if she would act.

They have the rights for Chris Cleave's novel "Little Bee," a tale in which Kidman does hope to star about the relationship between an Englishwoman and a teenage Nigerian refugee who has undergone terrible trauma.

Kidman, who has two adopted teenagers with Cruise in addition to her and Urban's daughter, said she was able to hurl herself into the role of bereaved mother with little preparation.

"It took me so long to get pregnant and have a baby, so I have enormous gratitude. I have two grown children with that enormous gratitude that they are healthy and sane and together and are great, great people. So my sense of knowing what I have, I'm not one of those people that needs to be reminded of what I have," Kidman said.

"But I suppose my compassion, my ability to just—I can weep when I hear the stories that people tell me of what they're going through. So my heart is open to that because of this film, because I've kind of put my toe in the water, in a way."



In this Dec. 7, 2010 photo, actress Nicole Kidman, from the film "Rabbit Hole", poses for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP



# Dog in Germany gives birth to 17 puppies



Nine Rhodesian Ridgeback puppies from a litter of 17, look out of their box in Nauen, 50 kilometers outside Berlin on Monday, Dec. 20, 2010. AP

**BERLIN (AP)**—A dog in Germany has given birth to 17 puppies, leaving their owner thrilled but fatigued after having to feed them with a bottle for several weeks because their mother couldn't cope with the demand.

Owner Ramona Wegemann said Monday she barely slept for more than a couple of minutes without interruption during about four weeks in an "exhausting" struggle to make sure all of the purebred Rhodesian Ridgeback puppies would survive.

She said when she was "finished feeding the last puppy, the first was hungry again."

Wegemann's dog Etana gave birth to eight female and nine male puppies on Sept. 28 in Ebereschhof, which is near Berlin.

At least five times a day, Wegemann gave the dogs a bottle with special milk because their mother's nipples could have never coped with the demand, and when the puppies were not hungry, they wanted to be entertained, she said.

Wegemann said when dogs give birth to so many puppies several of them die within the first week. "But all of our puppies survived. This is incredible and wonderful," the 32-year-old added.

It was the second time that Etana gave birth. She gave birth to eight puppies in her first pregnancy, not uncommon for the dog's breed, Wegemann said.

"The birth of the puppies was very special. All puppies were born naturally, no cesarean was necessary," she added. It took Etana a full 26 hours to give birth to all of the puppies—and Wegemann was as baffled as amazed.

## Manager: Shania Twain engaged to Frederic Thiebaud

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)**—Country singer Shania Twain is engaged.

Twain's manager Jason Owen confirmed Monday that Twain is engaged to business executive Frederic Thiebaud. Owen declined further comment.

The news was first reported by Us Weekly.

But caring for 17 puppies turned out to be a full-time job: Wegemann put her work as an independent animal psychiatrist on a hold and her husband took as much vacation as he could.

Their lives have been turned upside down by the puppies, and their living room is now occupied by a giant box that houses the puppies.

But even Wegemann still struggles to recognize them: The female puppies are called Bahati, Binta, Bahya, Bashima, Batouuli, Binki, Bora, Bisa and the male ones are Baakir, Banjoku, Belay, Bruk, Bundu, Bayo, Bukekayo, Biton and Bulus.

Wegemann gave them all African names because the Rhodesian Ridgeback is an African hunting dog. Wegeman and her husband now plan to give most of the puppies away.

A price of €800 (\$1,050) per puppy would only cover the expenses for the veterinary, vaccinations, food and the mandatory paperwork, Wegemann said. She hopes to get about €1,000 (\$1,315) per dog, but said they would only give them to families with children, not breeders.

Four of the puppies have been sold, two more are already paid for and will leave their siblings shortly.

Twain first confirmed in August 2009 that she was dating Thiebaud after her divorce from Robert "Mutt" Lange, who had an affair with Twain's best friend and Thiebaud's wife, Marie-Anne Thiebaud. She reached out to Frederic Thiebaud in the aftermath, and wrote on her website last

year that she had found "a dear friend and true gentleman."

No word on when or where the wedding will be. Twain, who has stepped away from the spotlight the last few years, has an autobiography due out in the spring and is scheduled to have her own show on Oprah Winfrey's television network.

## Husband's sex life appears to involve only his remote

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm pretty sure my husband is addicted to adult porn movies. We have several pornographic DVDs in the house and I can tell when they have been moved. He denies he's watching them, so confronting him again will only make him more angry and possibly push him "underground."

Our sex life, which used to be grand, has become almost non-existent. Do you have any suggestions?

SUSPICIOUS IN FLORIDA

**DEAR SUSPICIOUS:** Yes. Rather than accuse your husband of being a porn addict, start a discussion about what has happened to your sex life. He may need to be examined by his doctor to determine if his problem could be physical. If that isn't the case, then marriage counseling with a licensed therapist might help.

However, it doesn't seem likely to me that a man who views only "several" adult DVDs is a porn addict. Porn addicts are usually glued to their computers at every available spare moment.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am married for the second time and have two lovely stepsons in their early 20s. Recently they told me that my sister "Gloria" (age 55) had asked them to remove their shirts during a holiday event several years ago. They were teenagers at the time. She told them she wanted to "at least look since she couldn't touch." After that, they no longer wanted to participate in family gatherings.

For the record, Gloria has a history of poor impulse control. She takes medication for it and also to control her temper. She would verbally bait the older boy, who would then antagonize her until I stopped him from playing a battle of wits with an unarmed person.

My relationship with my sister has always been contentious. She used to beat me when I was a child. She was also controlling and tried to order everyone around. Should I stop having family gatherings? Should I ask other relatives to police her? How do I confront her about the many things she has done? Or should I stop associating with her?

VEXED IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR VEXED:** Because your sister seems unable to distinguish between what is and isn't appropriate behavior, have a talk with her and tell her what you expect from her before the next family gathering. I see little to be gained from a "confrontation" about what she did in the past.

If Gloria manages not to start trouble at the party, continue to include her. If not, no law says you must. If you don't, be prepared for questions about her absence and answer them directly and honestly.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a woman who is wondering what to say when someone calls me "sir" on the phone. I have heard my voice recorded, and I don't think I sound like a man. Still, it happens. It makes me feel angry and mortified. What do I say?

"MA'AM" IN CINNAMINSON, N.J.

**DEAR "MA'AM":** You should say, "For your information, I'm a woman." That should clear up any confusion.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### 2 paintings seized in NY stolen by Nazis in Poland

**NEW YORK (AP)**—U.S. authorities say they've seized two paintings in New York that were stolen from the National Museum in Warsaw, Poland, by the Nazis during World War II. The paintings by 19th-century Polish artist Julian Falat were seized last Wednesday. Federal prosecutors also filed court papers aimed at recovering the paintings, "Off to the Hunt" and "The Hunt." Prosecutors say the paintings remained missing after World War II. Polish authorities alerted U.S. authorities in 2006 that both were about to be sold at auction in New York. In a lawsuit, the U.S. government says the paintings can be seized because they constituted stolen property imported into the United States illegally.

### '30 Rock' star Morgan undergoes kidney transplant

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—"30 Rock" star Tracy Morgan is recovering from a kidney transplant. A statement released Monday by Morgan's publicist says Morgan is doing well and taking "much-needed time" to recover from the surgery earlier this month. The statement says the actor-comedian looks forward to returning

to work on the New York-based NBC sitcom after the holidays. The 42-year-old Morgan plays the goofy star of a TV show on "30 Rock." Another "30 Rock" cast member, Grizz Chapman, also received a new kidney earlier this year. NBC didn't immediately respond to a query about how Morgan's surgery would affect production of the sitcom.

### Ex-housekeeper admits to stealing from chef Deen

**SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)**—The former housekeeper of celebrity chef Paula Deen has been sentenced to 18 months in prison for stealing jewelry from the Food Network star's Georgia home. The Savannah Morning News reports that Mary Alice White appeared in court last week to admit she repeatedly took jewelry from Deen's Wilmington Island home during her nine months of employment. She was also sentenced to six years' probation. White was charged with theft on May 5 after she tried to pawn a pair of \$18,000 earrings at a Savannah pawn shop. Authorities say Deen reported \$100,000 worth of men's and women's jewelry was taken from her home over several months.

### Deputies investigating theft from Jermaine Jackson

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Sheriff's detectives say they are investigating the reported theft of \$192,000 in jewelry and luggage from Jermaine Jackson. Michael's Jackson's older brother reported the theft of watches, rings and other jewelry after returning to Southern California from a vacation in mid-September. Detectives say there are no suspects and no clear leads. Authorities say Jackson and his wife noticed the items were missing on Sept. 18 and realized that one of the doors of their Calabasas home had been left unlocked. The investigation was first reported by celebrity website TMZ.

### 'Smurfs' Village adds warning about Smurfberries

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The publisher of the popular "The Smurfs" Village game for the iPhone and iPad has added a warning that virtual items such as "Smurfberries" cost real money. An Associated Press story earlier this month revealed that parents have been surprised by charges racked up by their kids in games such as "Smurfs" Village. The games

are free to download but allow in-game purchases of virtual items like Smurfberries. Two taps can buy \$100 worth of Smurfberries. Capcom Entertainment Inc. updated the game Sunday. When the game starts up for the first time, a pop-up now warns about the option to purchase Smurfberries and that charges come out of owners' iTunes account.

### Bush, Graham meet in Charlotte for book-signing

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)**—The Rev. Billy Graham rarely appears in public these days, but a visit from former President George W. Bush is enough to bring him out. Hundreds of people lined up at the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte on Monday for a chance to get Bush and former first lady Laura Bush to sign copies of their books. Graham and his son, Franklin, had lunch with the Bushes before the book signing. The evangelist, who was in a wheelchair, hugged the former president before leaving the Bushes in the library book store for the signings. The Bushes did not take questions from reporters. Franklin Graham says his 92-year-old father is as sharp as he's been in the past few years.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

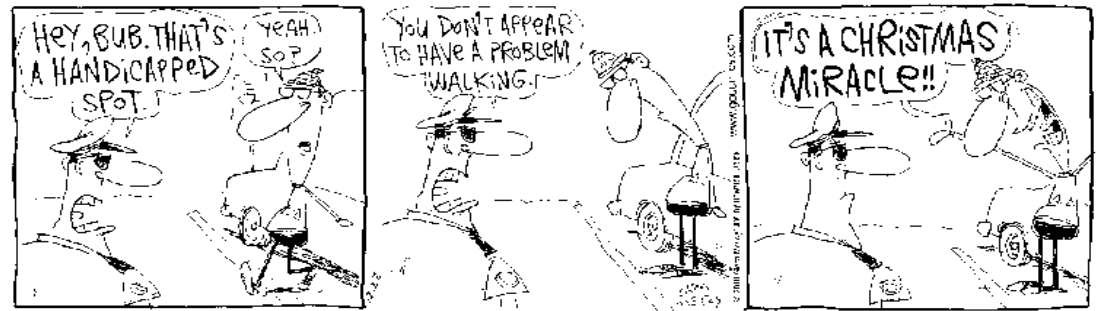


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Request tool  
4 Movie pig  
8 Interoffice note  
12 Writer Buscaglia  
13 In due time  
14 Ahma-dinejad's land  
15 Coffee vessel  
16 Runner  
18 Source of igneous rock  
20 Spotted  
21 Spheres  
24 Parade  
28 Confirm  
32 Harvard rival  
33 — carte  
34 Baghdad resident  
36 Sailor  
37 Hard work  
39 Flood  
41 Rio Grande feeder  
43 Casino cubes

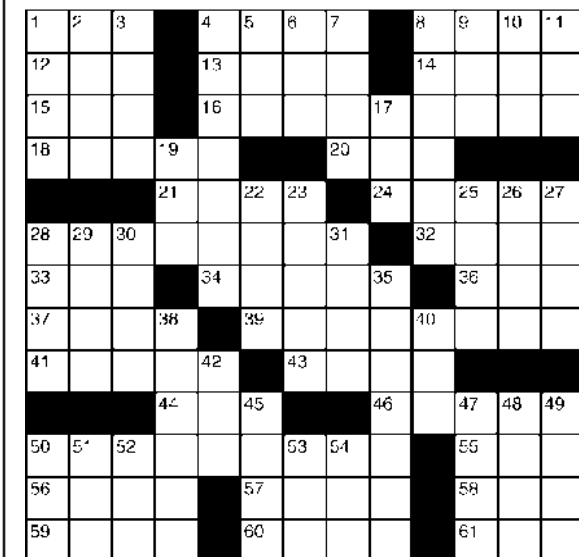
**DOWN**

1 Astrin-gent  
4 Robbery  
5 Convert to cash  
5 Santa —  
6 "— voyage!"  
7 Con-cludes can —?"  
8 Carn val area  
9 Historic period  
10 Wrestling surface  
11 Insepa-rable  
17 "— the Walrus"  
19 Miss Piggy's pronoun  
22 Adriatic Sea port  
23 Leave one's seat  
25 Sitar music  
26 Coagu-late  
27 "... oh, where can —?"  
28 Seduc-tress  
29 Burn remedy  
30 Secular  
31 Iso-  
35 Re-strained  
38 Grass-hopper's cousin  
40 Coo follower  
42 — generis  
45 Paradise  
47 Corn Belt state  
48 Second-stringers  
49 Snare  
50 Journal  
51 Hostel  
52 Sine-non link  
53 Mimic  
54 Twitch

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

C	R	A	B	D	E	A	R	T	W	A
M	O	N	O	O	C	R	E	W	I	C
T	W	N	P	F	A	K	S	O	N	E
D	E	P	O	I	F	A	V	E		
I	R	A	N	S	T	A	R	W	A	R
P	S	L	E	A	S	T	A	I		
S	E	R	F	G	F	A	N	T	C	E
A	D	E	O	N	B	A	U	V		
L	E	O								
C	A	F	E	D	G	E	L	L	I	L
E	L	F								

Yesterday's answer 12-22



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! \$9.95 per minute, touch-tone/relay phones. (18+ only). A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jordan Sparks, 21; Brooke Nevin, 28; Ralph Fiennes, 48; Diane Sawyer, 65

**Happy Birthday:** Force yourself to put the past behind you and embrace the future. Be strong and have the courage to move forward. Stand tall and do what's required in order to make things work for you. Lay the foundation and start to build your dreams, hopes and wishes. Before you know it, you will be on your way to recovery and victory. Your numbers are 2, 10, 16, 24, 29, 33, 47

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Tread carefully. It won't take much to upset someone you have to deal with today. Don't let a difficult partnership get you down or cause you to do something you wouldn't ordinarily do. Honesty, loyalty and integrity will be required. \*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You will please the people you love and will enjoy the close bond you develop. An important personal relationship will be enhanced by the choices you make and what you have to offer. Take the initiative to make your home one of comfort, peace and joy. \*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Be careful how much you spend and on what. Don't let your emotions cause you to donate cash; if you want to help, offer your time or a service you can share. Final touches to your work will separate what you produce from the competition. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Show your talent and offer your assistance. You will attract the attention of someone you think is special. A partnership will enable you to

get far more done. A serious decision will shape the direction you take in the new year. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You will overthink any situation you are facing. As long as you aren't going over budget, you should be able to move forward with your plans. The less time spent fretting over the impossible, the more you will accomplish. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Changes you make will lead to a better lifestyle and improved relationships. Your outlook regarding a cause or the people involved in a volunteer project will be altered by the way things are run. Romance is looking good. \*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Emotional upset is apparent and must be kept in check. Tempers will be short and patience will be required. Making any decisions or sudden, last-minute plans will not turn out well. Stick to what you are sure will work. \*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Don't hold back when there is so much to look forward to. Take charge and grab at any opportunity to bring about much-needed change. Love is strengthening and will help see you through any disorganization you face. \*\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Try to keep things as simple as possible. The fewer changes you make, the more stable you will become. Focus on maintaining what you already have, not trying to expand into unknown territory. \*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You can find out information that will enable you to please someone you love. An

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGY

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unusual look at your past will come through the memories someone shares with you. Love and romance are skyrocketing. Don't hold back the way you feel. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Helping others or getting involved in a partnership will enable both of you to excel. Moving forward is a necessity but it can also mean saying goodbye to old habits, friends or neighborhoods. Change will catapult you into a better place. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't question what everyone else is doing. Concentrate on the way you conduct your own interests. Family gatherings and picking presents for people you care about will bring you great joy. A financial gain is apparent. \*\*\*\*\*

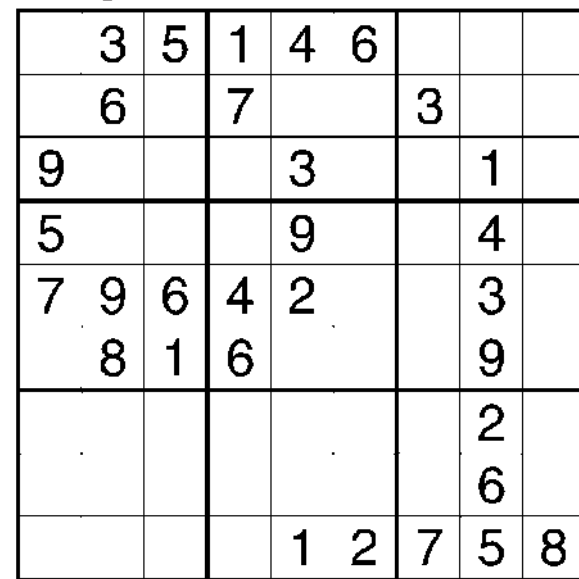
**Birthday Baby:** You are dedicated, loyal and fixed on your goals. You are charming and gracious, relentless and persistent.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



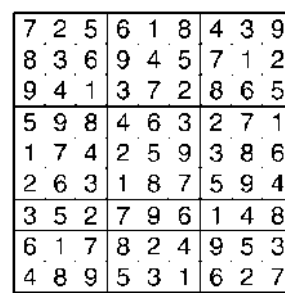
Difficulty Level ★★

12/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



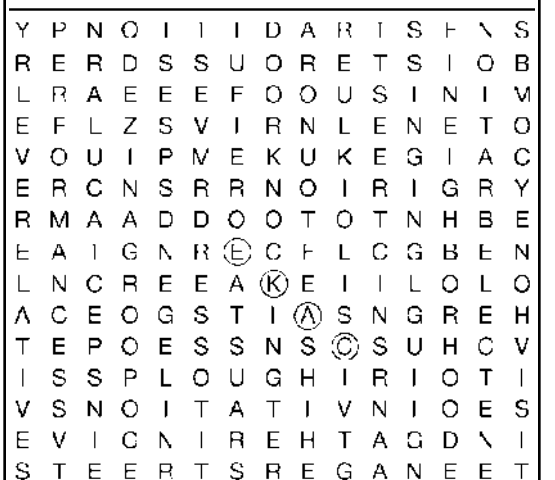
## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ROMANIAN CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Solution: 8 letters



Boisterous, Cake, Celebration, Cookies, Doorknocking, Dress, Eats, Event, Fruit, Fundraising, Gathering, Give, Honeycombs, Invitations, Legends, Lights, Neighborhood, Nuts, Organized, Performances, Plough, Procession, Relatives, Revelry, Singing, Spectacular, Streets, Teenagers, Tradition, Trees, Uniforms, Visit  
Yesterday's Answer: Dancing

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Attorney for Co-Petitioners.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EDMOND SALAS DEBRUM, Deceased.

Civil Action No. 10-0358

**NOTICE OF HEARING/ NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Date: January 18, 2011  
Time: 1:30 pm  
Judge: Honorable Robert C. Naraja

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HIS ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Co-Petitioners, Leriza S. DeBrum and Ida S. DeBrum, has filed a petition for letters of administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule 15, Com. R. Prob.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on January 18, 2011, at 1:30 pm in Courtroom 202, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to Rule 21, Com. R. Prob., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to F. Matthew Smith at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 16th day of December, 2010.

/s/ F. MATTHEW SMITH (F0264)  
Attorney for Co-Petitioners

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• 5-Liner	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$39</b>
• 3-Liner with picture	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$42</b>
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**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:  
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

**CANCELLATION**

**Classified Ads**

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**REFUNDS**

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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# Mavericks end Heat 12-game streak, beat Miami, 98-96

**MIAMI (AP)**—The streak-busters of the NBA hail from Dallas.

And for whatever reason, unless there's a championship at stake, the Miami Heat simply cannot beat the Mavericks.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 26 points, Jason Terry had all of his 19 in the final 11 minutes, and the Mavericks held LeBron James scoreless in the first half on the way to ending Miami's 12-game winning streak with a 98-96 victory on Monday night.

It was Dallas' 14th straight regular-season win over the Heat, and the Mavericks had been the most recent team to beat Miami this season, too. Dallas has snapped six opponent winning streaks of at least five games this season—including a pair of 12-gamers, against San Antonio on Nov. 26 and now Miami's.

"I don't make a huge deal out of the streak," Mavs coach Rick Carlisle said. "We are just trying to play solid basketball and win as many games as we can."

Terry has spoken often about how losing to Miami in the 2006 NBA finals still upsets him.

So while shooting at the East end of the court—the one over which the Heat championship banner softly sways—he put on a fourth-quarter show.

His biggest blow was a 3-pointer with 1:25 left, putting Dallas up 89-85 after Nowitzki airballed a 3-pointer but Miami couldn't get the rebound. Miami got within 91-90 on a three-point play by James, but that was the last gasp.

"Jet finally showed up in the fourth," Nowitzki said. "That's what he does. He's our finisher. He's our closer. He got hot."

Miami was within one point four times in the final 6:27, but Dallas never relinquished the lead.

"Couple of crazy bounces ... and they capitalized," Heat forward Chris Bosh said. "That's how the night went for us."

Caron Butler scored 13 for Dallas, which won despite giving up a 17-0 run in the first half and a 13-0 run in the third quarter.

Dwyane Wade scored 22 points, while James and Bosh each scored 19 for Miami. By the time Wade hit a meaningless 3-pointer with 0.8 seconds remaining, James was already tugging at his jersey and heading off the floor.

"All year, we're going to continue to get better, to improve to get to the elite level," Wade said. "We're 30 games in. These elite teams, they've been playing together for a long time."

Mario Chalmers had 13 points and James Jones added 10 for Miami. Shawn Marion finished with 13 rebounds and Tyson Chandler grabbed 10 for Dallas.

Terry simply took over in the final 12 minutes, shooting 6 of 10 from the field. His teammates shot 3 of 10, Nowitzki going 0 of 5.

Somehow, it was enough.

"Bottom line is they made bigger plays down the stretch more consistently than we did," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

The first half had about as many story lines as it had minutes.

Dallas came out flying, running out to a 14-2 lead and looking every bit like the team that has dominated Miami since the start of the 2004-05 season, and the Mavericks' zone defense was



Dallas Mavericks' Shawn Marion, left, congratulates Jason Terry after Terry scored against the Miami Heat in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Monday, Dec. 20, 2010. The Mavericks won 98-96.

## Jennings out with broken foot

**MILWAUKEE (AP)**—Milwaukee Bucks point guard Brandon Jennings will miss four to six weeks as he recovers from surgery to repair a fracture in his left foot.

General manager John Hammond said Monday that the 21-year-old Jennings was examined after Saturday's 95-86 loss to Utah.

Jennings broke the long bone on the outside of his left foot that connects to the little toe, one of the most common bones to break in the foot. He earlier said he first felt pain in a loss to San Antonio, but kept playing and also played 30 minutes against the Jazz.

"I think it shows you a lot about Brandon, the people who haven't had a chance to watch him in his first year and a quarter, I don't think anyone is going to question his competitive spirit," Hammond said.

Jennings had started every game since being picked 10th overall in 2009, a string of 107 regular-season games

and seven in the postseason. He'd been averaging 17.9 points per game and 5.5 assists in 25 games this year.

Jennings said earlier in the week that he hurt himself on a drive to the basket against the Spurs when he came down awkwardly on his knee and it put pressure on his ankle. Against the Jazz, he went 3 of 7 from the field and finished with six points, four assists and three rebounds.

"We know we can trust him and we know he's going to be a guy who's going to come back as soon as he's capable and ready," Hammond said. "We know he's tough enough to handle the assignment."

Jennings seemed like he was in good spirits, too, for his surgery. He posted pictures of himself in the hospital online, including his wristband for admission and some of the hospital clothing he'd be wearing.

The Bucks have two other point guards in Keyon Dooling and Earl Boykins.

giving the Heat fits.

"They can get you off-balance," James said. "Definitely."

Miami trailed 23-10 when James and Bosh checked out of the game for the first time. When they returned, Miami led 27-23.

It was 17 unanswered for the Heat, Wade leading the charge, personally accounting for the first 15 points—scoring nine of them, and setting up 3-pointers by Jones and Chalmers, the last of which put Miami ahead for the first time early in the second quarter.

James played 12 minutes in the first half, going to the bench with 6:01 left until intermission with three fouls. A late Miami spurt, fueled by Mike Miller's first appearance of the season, gave the Heat a 44-43 lead at halftime.

"Just shows the depth we have on this team," James said.

Miller checked in for the first time with 3:52 left in the half, the crowd greeting him with one of its loudest

ovations of the season. Miller missed all four of his shots, all from beyond the 3-point arc, but grabbed three rebounds on what'll go down as a bizarre Heat possession.

Most NBA possessions last less than 24 seconds, with one or two shots. The Heat had one trip last 52 seconds—with eight shots.

Miller had a defensive rebound to start the possession, two more offensive rebounds to keep it alive, and after seven misses, Chalmers hit a 3 with 1:53 left for a 42-39 lead.

James got his first points with a 3-pointer early in the third - starting a 13-0 run that ended with the league's two-time reigning MVP making another 3 to give Miami a 61-55 lead. James struck again at the buzzer to end the third, his jumper over Jason Kidd putting the Heat up by three, then scored the first points of the final period for a 70-65 lead.

Moments later, Terry made his first shot of the night, and the game

changed. He said Carlisle noted at the half that Dallas trailed by one, and that Terry was "still at the hotel."

In the end, Terry could appreciate the joke.

"I told him I thought the bus was at 8:45, 9:00," Terry said. "But thanks for coming back and getting me."

## Spurs 118, Suns 110

In San Antonio, the home team's winning streak reached nine with a victory over undermanned Phoenix.

Tim Duncan had 20 points and 15 rebounds while Gary Neal scored 22 off the bench for the Spurs, who improved the NBA's best record to 24-3 and are one victory from their second double-digit winning streak already this season.

Jared Dudley had 27 points for the Suns, who were still waiting to unite with trade acquisitions Vince Carter, Marcin Gortat and Mickael Pietrus. They're expected to be ready for Phoenix's next game Thursday against Miami.

## Hawks 91, Magic 81

In Atlanta, the hosts rolled over reconstructed Orlando.

Orlando, which hasn't had time to practice since acquiring Gilbert Arenas, Jason Richardson and Hedo Turkoglu on Saturday, struggled to find an offensive flow all night.

After setting a season low with 14 points in the first quarter, the Magic were held without a field goal for the first 8 minutes of the final period as the Hawks lead reached 17. Al Horford scored 24 points to lead Atlanta.

Dwight Howard had 19 points and 20 rebounds, but too little help, for Orlando.

## Pacers 94, Hornets 93

In Indianapolis, Mike Dunleavy's tip-in at the buzzer gave Indiana a victory over New Orleans.

The Hornets had taken the lead on a jumper by David West with 3.9 seconds left. Indiana's Danny Granger's long shot rattled around the rim, and Dunleavy was uncontested for the rebound under the hoop. The officials reviewed the play and the basket stood.

Granger led the Pacers with 27 points. Darren Collison scored 18 points in his first game against his old team.

Emeka Okafor had 19 points and 15 rebounds for the Hornets, who lost their sixth straight road game.

## Jazz 101, Cavaliers 90

In Cleveland, Utah beat Cleveland, moving coach Jerry Sloan into a tie with Pat Riley for the third-most wins in NBA history.

Sloan, Utah's coach since 1988, has 1,210 victories. Up next is Lenny Wilkens (1,332) and Don Nelson (1,335). During Sloan's long run, which began before Jazz rookie Gordon Hayward was born, there have been 234 coaching changes across the league.

CJ Miles scored 22 points, Paul Millsap and Raja Bell added 19 apiece as the Jazz improved to 11-1 against Eastern Conference teams.

Daniel Gibson scored a career-high 29 for the Cavaliers, who have lost 11 of 12.

## Trail Blazers 106, Bucks 80

In Portland, LaMarcus Aldridge had 29 points and a career-high 19 rebounds as Portland shook off injury problems to rout Milwaukee.

Wesley Matthews added 22 points for the Blazers, who have won three in a row and had only eight players dressed after losing Dante Cunningham four minutes in.

John Salmons scored 14 of his 23 points in the third quarter for the Bucks, who have lost three in a row.

## Rockets 121, Warriors 112

In Oakland, Kevin Martin made a tying basket and a go-ahead 3-pointer in crunch time on the way to 30 points as Houston defeated Golden State.

Luis Scola had 20 points with a key late jump hook, nine rebounds and six assists for the Rockets, who have won five of six.

Golden State's Monta Ellis scored 44 points—nine straight during a key fourth-quarter spurt—for his third 40-point game of the season. He added seven assists, but the Warriors lost for the 14th time in 16 games.

## Wizards 108, Bobcats 75

In Washington, the hosts limited Charlotte to one field goal in the third quarter and snapped a seven-game losing streak.

Nick Young scored 21 points for the Wizards, undermanned while No. 1 pick John Wall remained injured and Rashard Lewis was unavailable after coming in a trade from Orlando.

Washington used a 21-2 run to start the third quarter to achieve its biggest victory since 2005-06.

Charlotte set a franchise low by getting only Boris Diaw's layup with 10:13 left in the third.

## Clippers 113, Timberwolves 90

In Los Angeles, Eric Gordon scored a season-high 36 points as Los Angeles handed Minnesota its sixth straight loss.

Blake Griffin added 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Clipper, who were coming off successive road wins and carried that onto a home court where they had lost three straight.

Michael Beasley scored 20 points for the Timberwolves, who completed a six-game trip with their 12th straight road loss.



# Favre knocked out, Bears beat Vikes to win North



**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—** Bundled up on the sideline in a heavy, gray coat, Brett Favre could only watch as Devin Hester and the Chicago Bears sped through the snow to the NFC North title.

Favre's surprise start ended with a concussion, perhaps putting him out for good, and the Bears spoiled Minnesota's first outdoor home game in 29 years.

Hester set the NFL record with his 14th kick return touchdown, running back a punt 64 yards for a score shortly after halftime to help the Bears fly past the Vikings 40-14 on a frosty, hard-hitting Monday night.

"You play long enough, you're going to get your bell rung," Favre said.

Jay Cutler threw for three scores for the Bears (10-4), who last won this division during their 2006 Super Bowl season. Hester caught one of Cutler's touchdown passes and also took back the second-half kickoff 79 yards to set up a field goal a few minutes before his game-breaking punt return made it 27-7.

That was Hester's 14th career return touchdown, kickoff or punt, breaking Brian Mitchell's previous mark.

"Don't dwell on this," Hester said. "It's the record-breaker, but there's going to be a lot more. I guarantee you that."

Favre doesn't have many, if any, left. He finished 5 for 7 for 63 yards before the big hit by Corey Wootton, and the Vikings (5-9) fell apart in front of their proud alumni in town for the franchise's 50th anniversary celebration featuring all kinds of blasts from the past.

With the Metrodome unusable because of a roof collapse, the game got moved to the University of Minnesota. TCF Bank Stadium was about 80 percent full, with snowballs flying from the seats—sometimes hitting players—and plenty of frolicking in the flakes.

Favre wasn't even supposed to play, but his sprained throwing shoulder suddenly felt better this weekend. His NFL-record starts streak over, he still wanted to play once more in front of the Vikings fans that embraced him so warmly after booing him for so long as a member of the Packers.

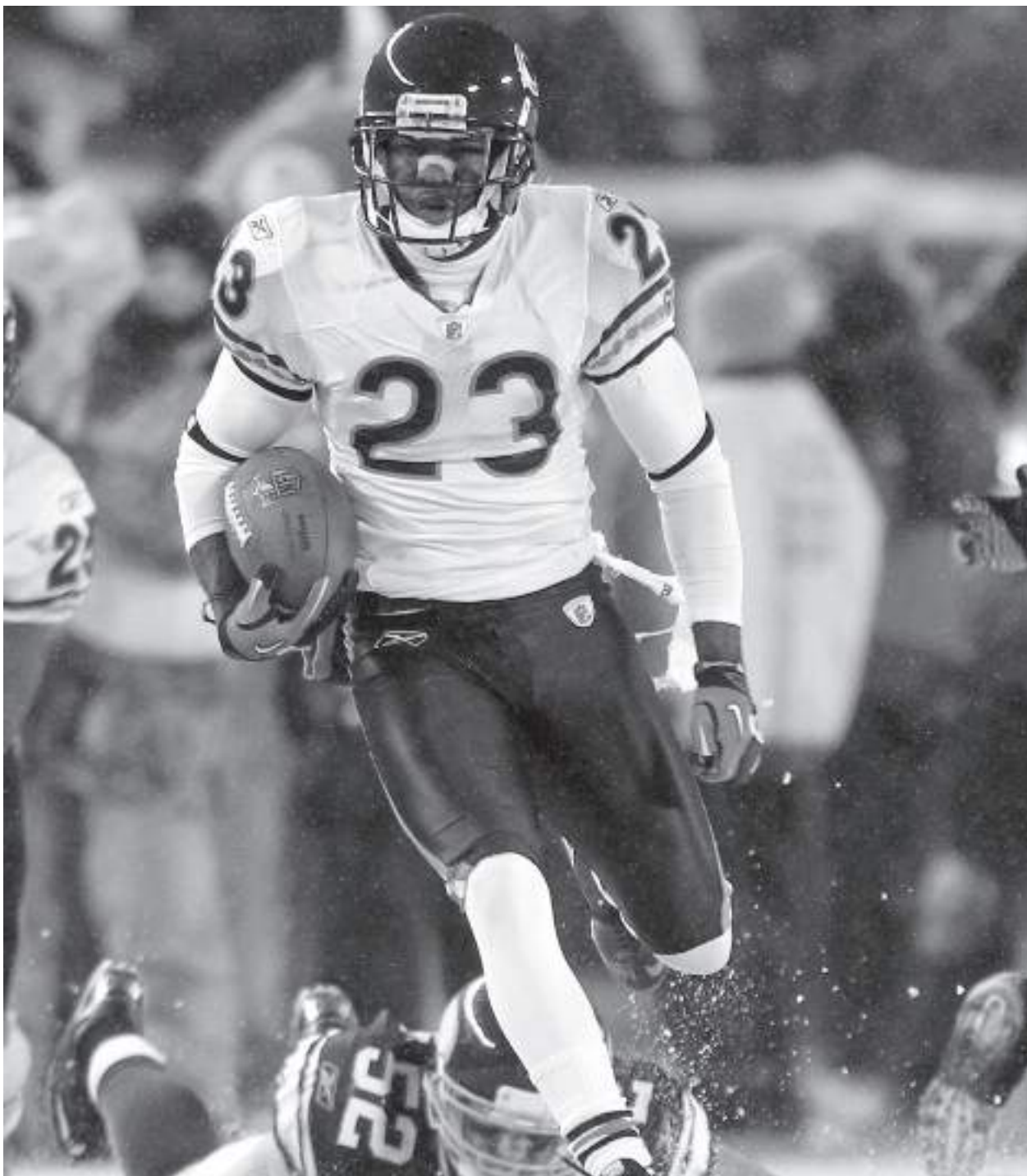
He passed his pregame throwing test and trotted out in front of the Minnesota fans one last time, finding Percy Harvin for a 23-yard TD to give the Vikings a 7-0 lead after the opening drive.

"There were a few friendly wagers in the quarterback room on whether Brett would be out there," said Cutler, who had a cut on his chin after a hit from Antoine Winfield and played with a big bandage. "I wasn't surprised at all."

Favre managed one more joyful jump on a teammate's back to celebrate a touchdown, piggybacking right guard Ryan Cook before embracing Harvin and raising his left arm in triumph as he jogged off.

"It was a great opening drive," Favre said. "I probably should've went straight up the tunnel after that. But again—you've got to try sometimes."

Henry Melton tipped Favre's pass on the next Minnesota possession, Julius Peppers intercepted it at the 14 and Robbie Gould kicked a field goal. The next drive was a three-and-out, and Favre had to hustle back and smother the ball after a high snap slipped through his hands. Cutler zipped a 67-yard pass up the sideline over safety



Chicago Bears' Devin Hester (23) breaks away from Minnesota Vikings' Chad Greenway (52) for a 64-yard touchdown on a punt return during the second half of an NFL football game Monday, Dec. 20, 2010, in Minneapolis. AP

## Commissioner 'following up' on Favre investigation

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—**NFL commissioner Roger Goodell says he's still "following up" on some of the information in the Brett Favre investigation to make sure it's thorough and reaches "the right conclusion."

Goodell met with Favre briefly during his visit to Minnesota for Monday's Bears-Vikings game at snowy TCF Bank Stadium. He did not elaborate on the nature of the work he has left to do on the investigation, nor would he be specific when asked when he'll declare his decision.

"I'm not going to put a timetable on it, other than I did say I hope it'll be by the end of the regular season," Goodell said.

He added: "We want to be as thorough and serious about it and reach the right conclusion."

Favre said he had a "brief conversation" with Goodell before the game, but the quarterback declined to elaborate on the discussion.

"I wouldn't call that an investigation or anything like that," Favre said.

Favre allegedly sent inappropriate messages and lewd photos to former New York Jets game emcee Jenn Sterger two years ago when they were both with the team. The allegations against the 41-year-old quarterback surfaced months ago on the website Deadspin.

Favre, who was declared out for the game when the Vikings issued their injury report on Saturday, was upgraded to questionable on Monday and started despite a sprained throwing shoulder that kept him out the week before and ended his NFL-record streak of 297 straight regular-season games started.

His return didn't last long. Bears defensive end Corey Wootton slammed Minnesota's 41-year-old quarterback to the ground in the second quarter, and Favre watched the rest of a 40-14 loss from the bench.

Favre has said several times this year that this will be his last season, and only two games remain.

Goodell requested a meeting earlier in the day with Minnesota Gov.-elect Mark Dayton regarding the team's drive for a new stadium. The Vikings had been lobbying for a new place to play for more than a decade before the Metrodome's roof collapsed under the weight of last weekend's blizzard.

Goodell also met with business leaders, union leaders and state legislators. He said he'll help however he can.

"I think there's a recognition that we need to find a long-term solution for the Vikings here, get a new stadium built, and we're all going to work together," commissioner said.

Dayton said before the meeting that

Goodell will have a "crucial" role in the process.

"If it's a good deal for the people of Minnesota, I'll support it," Dayton said. "If the financial benefits of 8,000 construction jobs, the taxes they pay, the additional revenues from contractors, subcontractors, all of the financial gains to the state of Minnesota exceed the costs, then it's a good deal for the people of Minnesota."

Two separate groups in Los Angeles are aiming to build stadiums there. The Vikings have a lease at the Metrodome through next season. But Goodell said he "certainly" hopes the franchise would not be relocated.

"Our focus is entirely on making sure they're successful here in this market," Goodell said.

Goodell stopped by the Metrodome to see the damage and called it "quite startling." Because the focus has been on getting the stadium at the University of Minnesota ready, Goodell said, it was too early to assess the Metrodome's status for next season.

Players from both the Bears and the Vikings voiced worry this week about the safety of the turf at TCF Bank Stadium, the University of Minnesota's home field, but Goodell said experts have signed off on the condition and expressed no concern about it.

Madieu Williams to a streaking Johnny Knox, and the Bears built a 10-7 lead they never lost.

In the second quarter, the Vikings lost Favre—possibly for good.

On third-and-4 from the Bears 48, Wootton got in the backfield and grabbed Favre by his non-throwing shoulder, slamming him to the cold turf players had worried about in the days before the game. The career leader in almost every major statistical category for quarterbacks, Favre lay motionless for a few seconds before climbing to his feet and walking off with his head hung down.

With a black cap pulled past his eyebrows, Favre grimaced as he put on an oversized coat and got ready to watch the rest of the game. Rookie Joe Webb took over, scoring on a 13-yard scramble to the edge of the end zone to cut the lead to 27-14, but the Bears had their way after putting perhaps the final seal on Favre's storied 20-year career.

Favre repeatedly has said this will be his final season. He spoke wistfully of his career after the game, but refused to rule himself out of either of the last two games just yet.

"He can walk away with his legacy intact," Vikings interim coach Leslie Frazier said.

If Favre was diagnosed with a concussion, he'd need to meet NFL guidelines requiring him to be symptom-free and cleared by both a team doctor and independent neurological consultant before he can play again.

The Bears were playing their second straight snow-globe-style game, actually, eager to erase the taste of last week's blowout loss at Soldier Field to the New England Patriots.

They certainly got that done.

"By no means are we completely satisfied," Cutler said. "We know we can be so much better offensively."

Afterthoughts in a division featuring Favre and the reigning champion Vikings plus a dangerous Green Bay team, the Bears didn't buy into the doubts. They've caught several opponents at the right time, including the banged-up Vikings. With Cutler playing better, Hester back in his super-rookie form and the defense relatively healthy again, however, the Bears are feeling just fine.

"It's hard to stop that type of team, when everybody is scoring," Hester said.

Former Vikings coach Bud Grant jogged around the field at halftime in a short-sleeve purple shirt, getting carried off by some of his former players after an inspired ceremony.

With general-admission seating, customers braved the cold in parkas, snowmobile suits and ski caps, celebrating touchdowns with snowball throws and cheering their favorite players from the past as they were introduced at halftime.

Dozens of workers massaged the field before the game to make it as playable as possible, with machines pushing snow across the yard lines and into the corners of the brick-lined walls. Crews gently rolled off the tarp before warmups while the flakes kept flying.

Players from both teams expressed concerns this week about the safety of the turf. Vikings punter Chris Kluwe posted on Twitter after Sunday's walk-through his comparison of the surface to "concrete." He predicted a "train-wreck" and later said he was asked to stop tweeting by the team.







# 2010 NMA Christmas Island Relay

Photos By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Cheetohs members Todd Montgomery, Melody Matson, Terra Allen, Yosh Gabaldon, and Scott Hayden finished second to Mami's Boys.



From left, Mamiko Oshima-Berger, Joshua Berger, Vinnie Inos, and Jack Kabiriel, of Mami's Boys near the finish line of the 13.7-mile race at the Last Command Post. Also on the team was Stuart Smith.



Pinoy Runners' Caesar Danao, Nap Dizon, Ronald Villafria, Butch Sublemente, and Florence Antonio completed the Top 3 in the open division.



Gold's Gym is a few steps away from completing the race.



The Hangovers cross the finish line in style.



Cultura Athletics' Ryan Ichihara, Michael Mancao, Beo Ngirchongor, Lia Rangamar, and Douglas Dillay topped the youth division.



Soloist runner Keum Bae Ji nears the finish line.



Vinnie Inos, second left, of Mami's Boys starts his one-mile leg from the Capital Hill intersection to Aqua Resort Club after being tagged by Joshua Berger, left, during the 2010 NMA Christmas Island Relay last Saturday.



Nap Dizon runs toward Lower Base, while other runners are waiting for their teammates.



Noriko Jim returned to road running last Saturday and topped the women's solo division.





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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Grace, Keanna finish strong in Dubai

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

CNMI swimmers Keanna Villagomez and Grace Kimball closed out the last three days of competition in the 10th FINA World Swimming Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on a high note, recording new personal best times.

Last Friday, Villagomez swam on Heat 1 of the 200m backstroke qualifying race and timed in at two minutes, 58.74 seconds, about two minutes faster than her personal best time of 3:08.33.

The United States' Melissa Franklin had the fastest qualifying heat time at 2:03.26 to lead seven others in the semifinal round. Shiho Sakai of Japan (2:00.18) and Kirsty Coventry (2:00.91) of Zimbabwe are the world and championship record-holders in the women's 200m backstroke, respectively.

Kimball also raced last Friday and submitted a new personal best time in the 400m freestyle event. The 15-year-old swimmer was on Heat 1 of the 400m qualifying race and clocked in at 5:10.29, which is better than her qualifying time of 5:10.56.

Another U.S. swimmer—Kathryn Hoff—recorded the

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Kimball



Villagomez

### Macaranas vies for slot on Tiger's Golf Team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

After a successful fall season, CNMI junior golfer R.J. Macaranas is aiming for a higher goal—a slot on the Tiger Woods National Junior Golf Team.

"I will be applying this year on Tiger's

The team is under the Tiger Woods Foundation, an educational foundation that offers other non-profit orga-

nizations grants for education and year-round mentoring and tutoring programs.

According to the foundation website, the team was originally created in recognition of Tiger's work with underserved youth and when the Junior World Golf Championships granted 18 permanent exemptions to the Foundation. These exemptions create opportunities to enhance the growth of junior golfers through inter-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

R.J. Macaranas, seen here with the PGA plaque he won early this month, is hoping to make it to the 2011 Tiger Woods National Junior Golf Team.

### More graces flow as Pacquiao celebrates 32nd birthday

By ROY LUARCA  
INQUIRER

GEN. SANTOS CITY, Philippines—Manny Pacquiao's pricey new watches—a Patek Philippe from his promoter Bob Arum and a Rolex from his wife Jinkee—say it all.

The king of the ring has virtually everything—world acclaim, a happy family, a bottomless supply of cash, and a congressional seat—and even more graces continued to pour in as he

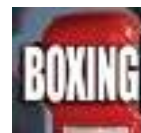
turned 32 yesterday.

Another multimillion fight is in the works, with the formal announcement to be made "sometime in the middle of the week before Christmas."

"We'll be able to announce who he is fighting and where he is fighting," Arum said after lunch tendered at the Pacquiao's mansion here.

The runaway pacesetter is Shane Mosley, with Juan Manuel Marquez desperately trying to stay in the race. Andre Berto

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## Piao wins RGA Club Championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



January Ace winner Jun Yi Piao was awarded the RGA Cup after topping the 2010

Annual Refaluwasch Golf Association Ace of Aces Placido M. Tagabuel Club Championship over the weekend at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The junior golfer played strong in the first round of the two-day club championship to gain momentum and was steady in the final round to beat 11 other monthly Ace winners for the coveted RGA Cup.

The eight-handicapper carded a 2-over par 74 in the first round



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jun Yi Piao tees off during the first round of the 2010 Annual Refaluwasch Golf Association Ace of Aces Placido M. Tagabuel Club Championship last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

on the east course last Saturday for a net 66 and a two-stroke lead over Jesse Seman. The seven-handicapper Seman had an event par 36 on the front and closed out with a 3-over par 39 on the back for a gross 75 and net 68.

Joe Wabol and Nick Sablan tallied a net 69 and 70, respectively, to complete the Top 4 finishers in the first round.

In the second round last Sunday, participants in the club championship moved to the west course with Piao having a decent 10-over par 82 for a net 74 and a two-day total of 140. Piao won by two strokes against Manny Mangarero (140). Joe Saures rounded out the Top 3

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Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao celebrated his 32nd birthday last Friday amid fanfare in his hometown of General Santos City, Philippines.

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